Saturday, August 18, 2007 44 18 sections | Vol. 31 / No. 251 P18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

RAINDROPS KEEP FALLING as "Egay" ravages Metro Manila on Friday, and this street child in Tondo is right there waiting to catch each and every one of them.

RP wins $425-M case

WB junks Fraport's Naia 3 claim

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE WORLD BANK HAS DISmissed the claim for compensation over the Naia Terminal 3 project of Germany's Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide (Fraport), clearing the way for the eventual operation of the snobbished facility, officials said yesterday.

The bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) decided it lacked the jurisdiction to hear Fraport's claim brought against the Republic of the Philippines in 2003, an ecstatic Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera announced at a press briefing in Malacañang.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it's bad weather but good news," she said.

She quoted President Macapagal-Arroyo as saying, "Wow!" when briefed the news.

"The Philippines has won in the international arbitration case filed by Fraport against our government. This is a significant milestone in our quest for modernity.

BP WORK A2

AN UNFINISHED LIFE: The night for 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Corrales is held in his unfinished house in Fairview town, Quezon. The only officer of 21 soldiers killed in Jolo, Corrales was only on his first assignment after his PMA graduation when killed in action. The town is proud of its first ever PMAyer. The funeral is set on Monday with full military honors.

Biazon sees pattern in 2 Basilan debacles

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A SPATE OF SIX YEARS SEPARATES the debacles suffered by government troops in Al Barka and Lamitan, both in Basilan, but they are linked in some way according to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

A former chief of staff of the Armed Forces, Biazon made the connection between the ambush in Al Barka (formerly Tipo-Tipo) on July 10, and the siege of Lamitan on June 2, 2001, after a meeting with Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV at the latter's detention cell in Fort Bonifacio yesterday morning.

Biazon later told reporters he was convinced that the Senate should investigate Trillanes' claim that a conspiracy among "ranking government officials" had led to the killing of 14

BIAZON A9

39 planes seek shelter from 'Egay' in Clark, Subic

By TJ Burgonio, Tarra Quismundo and Inquirer Northern and Central Luzon

IN WHAT COULD BE THE LARGEST aircraft evacuation the country has seen, at least 39 passenger—16 of them cargo—planes from Taiwan and Hong Kong were being diverted to airports in Central Luzon yesterday to escape the onslaught of "Egay's" super strong winds of 220 kph.

Services of rain from a "massive thunderstorm" induced by tropical storm Egay swamped a large part of Luzon yesterday and weathermen predicted more rain today in the north of the country, even as Egay began to weaken while heading toward Taiwan, officials said.

Toward evening, as early darkness fell on Metro Manila, Egay had lost some of its power.

From 220 kph, Egay's maximum sustained winds slightly tapered off to 201 kph, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

It predicted more rains today to different parts of Luzon, especially up north.

Moderate to heavy rains will contin-

39 PLANES A2

Investors now on risk-aversion stance, says BSP

THE PESO AND STOCK MARKET ARE likely to experience more volatility as investors reassess risk, Governor Amando Tetangco of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

"The impact [of the US credit crunch] really has been indirect, [it] has been in the form of risk aversion," Tetangco said.

But since global credit concerns ease, local markets should gain, given the country's sound macroeconomic fundamentals, the central bank governor said.

"As markets reassess risk and as investors adjust their portfolios, economic prices can naturally be expected to change. That's why it's important

INVESTORS A2

'Alien' bangus invasion assailed

By Gabriel Cardenas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

DAGUPAN CITY—"ALIEN" bangus have invaded this city.

Bangus (milkfish) from other provinces have flooded public

BANGUS A9

MAGSAYSAY AWARDS

Blind Chinese leads way in fight for rights of poor

By E.R. Santos
Contributor

AS A CHILD, CHEN GUANGCHENG listened intently to his father's stories of classic heroes. One can only imagine how images of heroic men and women who challenged the powers of the high and mighty in search of justice for the poor and oppressed must have filled the mind and conquered the spirit of the young Chen, blind since infancy after a bout with high fever.

Today, Chen Guangcheng is the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Emergent Leadership, for "his irrepressible passion for justice in leading ordinary Chinese citizens

READ CHINESE, A13

CHEN GUANGCHENG: Awardee for Emergent Leadership can't attend Aug. 31 rites; is in jail for speaking for the voiceless.

Puno says SC to use writ of 'amparo'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THROUGH THE WRIT OF "AMPARO," the military will not be able to evade culpability for extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances by merely denying that it is holding in custody missing or disappeared persons, Chief Justice Reynato Puno Jr. said yesterday.

"It will not be enough for state authorities or agents to deny that they have custody of the victims. This is the usual defense they forward whenever [Families of] victims file a petition for writ of habeas corpus. It's a lot of in-

PUNO A2

WHAT'S INSIDE

METRO/ A21
Bigamy charges filed vs Noli de Castro, wife Arlene

SATURDAY SPECIAL / F1
Fil-Am actresses should vie for role of Steve McQueen's Manila-born wife

OPINION/ A13
News behind the news in 'Between Deadlines'

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

Mini-Marshall Plan for M'danao eyed

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

DEVENECIA

HONRADO

SPEAKER JOSE DE Venecia yesterday floated a new approach that could end the raging conflict in parts of Mindanao.

He proposed a five-year mini-Marshall Plan to stabilize Muslim Mindanao so the region could become an economic action program.

De Venecia said his plan would build infrastructure, schools, hospitals, farm-to-market roads and would be "so shockingly and effective" it would turn jobs away from the insurgencies of both the communists and Muslims that have plagued Mindanao for years.

At the same time, he supported a shift in military action from an all-out war against insurgents to "focused surgical operations" targeting only the Abu Sayyaf group.

"The action will put an end to the insurgency," De Venecia told the Inquirer. "The economic thing that we have to be very serious about."

The twin proposals of a secretary package and a order for military action would be among the talking points in the consultation of peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Malaysia next week, he said.

We will support these peace talks with a genuine economic action package," De Venecia added.

Under the proposal, the Mindanao aid will be spread for five years. Half of the budget will be raised from donations from the United States, European Union, Scandinavian countries, Australia, Japan and neighboring countries in Southeast Asia.

The rest of the fund will be appropriated from the annual national budget.

De Venecia proposed the multibillion-peso package for Mindanao in the context of an "all-encompassing" economic program against so-called enemies of the Philippine government.

Gov. Gringo Honrado said yesterday the "hand-tool" solutions the government had resorted to in injecting economic activity in Mindanao proved to be ineffective in lifting its people out of poverty.

"Piece-meal and half-baked approaches are simply no longer applicable there. Mindanao does not need a few billion pesos to here and there over several years. It needs several billions of pesos in development funds in quick orders" said Honrado, who has also been pushing for a Mindoro Phosphate Mindanao recovery and economic revitalization.

He said Filipinos in Mindanao were entitled to their share of income in good-paying jobs, productive lands, decent housing as well as adequate education and health care as much as the Filipinos in Luzon and Visayas.

"The time to address these inequities is now," he said.

Honrado's proposal was considered by many overlapping insurgents in the "neglected," said the former Army colonel as the wake of the government's plan to step up military operations under the new following the deadly ambush of Marines in Basilan.

Meanwhile, the Ecumenical Voice For Peace and Reconciliation, an ecumenical organization, yesterday joined the call for the Arroyo administration to withdraw its plan for an all-out war on Muslims and Reds.

The network of church leaders, human rights defenders and civil libertarians said the two provinces had suffered enough.

PEDE a expect from Jeremie Arcing

I can do a better job – Mar Roxas

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ME CONTINUED TO REACTION about his presidential ambitions, but Sen. Mar Roxas yesterday declared he believed that he could do "a better job" and that the country is a "better place" than the current occupant in Malacañang.

"Do I want things for our country? The answer is yes. Do I think I can do a better job? The answer is yes. Do I think that our country could be in a much better place? The answer is yes," Roxas pushed in an hour-long interview with ABC.

Roxas's remarks fueled as a strong contender for the presidency in 2010 along with Senate President Manuel Villar and Senator Panfilo Lacson and Leon Legarda, Roxas insisted that Malacañang can be seized from his current preoccupation.

"2010 is two and a half years away, who knows what's going to happen? Who knows what 2010 will bring? I am a senator now, I have a duty," Roxas said.

Senate in Just-Said boss is confused by former Sen. Antonio Eslenga, a fellow Liberal Party member, in vicious public appearances as the "next President of the Philippines."

Roxas said that while he was with the minority bloc, he was wary of being "presidentiable" in opposition.

"What we simply were discussed, that being in the opposition means just setting the stage for everything. I certainly am for many things and I am for moving our country forward," he said. "This whole dynamic of opposition-administration is really quite tiresome. I refuse to be involved.

"I am Mar Roxas, these are my beliefs, this is where I'm going to take the country."

Roxas, a former Gilbert Senate investment banker, was not too shy in leaving his colleagues in the Senate during the Arroyo administration, like the recession and poverty.

Roxas said one did not have to be a rocket scientist to solve the persistent budget deficit problem. "Any fool can solve the budget deficit," he remarked. The country knows the Roxas administration.

"Reasonable balancing his budget, except for the famine or disaster, or the same as a President or a budget secretary," Roxas said. "Reasonable balancing the budget. You have to prioritize, you have to make sure there are no leakages. Make sure that every peso that you spend is effective and efficient and not wasted. It's the same principle," he said.

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War in South setting back dev't goals, says expert

By TJ Burgonio

THE ARMED CONFLICT IN SULU AND Basilan is further setting back the reduction of poverty and other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Region 12 in Mindanao, according to a civil society group.

"Even if the hostilities are taking place in pockets of communities, whatever achievements that have been gained for the past three years would be greatly affected," Joseph Gloria of the Social Watch Philippines-Mindanao told reporters on Thursday. "Peace is indivisible, isn't it."

Speaking at the National Consultation on the Philippine Midterm Report on the MDGs, convened by Social Watch Philippines, in Quezon City, Gloria said internal conflict, together with the El Niño phenomenon, had been compromising the achievement of MDGs in Region 12 (Soccsksargen) for the past several years.

"The region has been long affected by hostilities. The encounters between government troops and other communist insurgents or Moro separatists affect the lives and livelihood of the population," he said, adding: "Basically, the most affected are not the children. If war erupts, where do the people run? They run to the nearest school, where they reside for a few weeks. That is for the education of the children."

By 2015

The Philippines signed in 2000 the Millennium Declaration and the covenant to attain the eight MDGs by 2015.

The goals are to eradicate poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and develop global partnership for development.

Apart from having no hope with lots of lives in the aftermath of the hostilities, Gender Head is difficult to invest in internal and peoples, the group said.

He said that in Region 12, there had been a "downward trend" in children's participation in primary education from school year 2002-2003 to school year 2003-2004.

"Education and basic services are the true indicators of poverty," Gloria said. "You have a downward trend... What they make it by 2015? I doubt it."

To achieve the MDGs, the document said, action trend should be reversed, the armed conflict should be addressed, and preparations for El Niño should be made, he said.

Fred Lyonar Briones, lead convenor of Social Watch Philippines, noted a "close correlation" between conflict-ridden and poverty-stricken areas.

She said the regions lagging behind in the attainment of MDGs were marked by high levels of poverty and of mortalities, and poor levels of education and of health.

32 in PIPC scam charged with estafa

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation (NBI) yesterday filed [illegible] charges against 32 officers, managers and employees of the Trafina Insurance Brokerage Corp. (TIBC) and PIPC Corp.

Charged with syndicated estafa before the Department of Justice were Michael H.K. Liew, the management services of PIPC and chair of the board and president of PIPC Corp.; his business partner Chan Peng Chan, also Albert Chan; Gideon Gonzalez Rivera, PIPC Corp. principal managers and treasurer; and Ma. Victoria Sanchez and Manuel Zosandro, PIPC Corp. corporate secretaries.

Also charged were Rosario Gabriel Ibay, Brian Gonzales, Jessa Gail Dizon and Peter Dimacali Jr. Both, PIPC Corp investigators.

The NBI also charged with the same offenses at least 22 employees or marketing agents who allegedly enticed investors to put in their money in the firm.

The case was stemmed from the complaints filed by at least 21 investors who put in a total of $1.3 million, or P70 million.

NBI investigators said that from year 2003 to July 2007, the complainants were duped into investing funds for PIPC in foreign exchange trading.

The complainants told NBI that they each put in a required minimum investment of $40,000.

They claimed that they were multiple contracts and were told that their money would be "100-percent guaranteed" and promised of monetary fees for spending private citizens.

PIPC offered 1 to 2 percent monthly earnings on their investments and that 60 percent of the earnings are of trading commissions and management fees would be credited to their respective bank accounts within 24 working days, the complainants said.

They added that they were required to "refer" their investments through any of the three foreign banks where PIPC maintained investment, namely Standard Chartered Bank Hong Kong, ABN Amro Bank Hong Kong and Japan and Chase Manhattan New York.

PIPC is the foreign exchange trading firm whose Singaporean owner allegedly disappeared with at least $200 million in investors' money.

PIPC Corp. on the other hand, was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a financial consultants and information technology firm.

However, the NBI believes that the two companies are one and the same.

Lawyer Basil Lozada, NBI regional director and chief of the National Capital Region, said, "It appears that the respondents only used PIPC as a front. Maybe it was really their plan to use it as non-existing firm. PIPC, we have investors, thinking that it would be easy for them to make changes, by claiming that they were connected to a different company (PIPC Corp.)."

PIPC, he said, was not registered with SEC.

The respondents in the investment scam were the same persons comprising the set of directors, officers and employees of PIPC Corp. engaged in soliciting capital investments from investors for PIPC, he said.

Citing a verification made with SEC, Lozada added that PIPC and PIPC Corp. Women's Caravaggio Holdings Inc.) held office at the same business address at the 15th and 31st floors of the Citibank Tower, No. 8741, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Fast-food chains bag 'Pasaway sa Lawa' awards

By DJ Yap

WHAT COULD "BOY BAWANG" have in common with "Chicken joy" and "Big Mac"?

Not much, except the makers of these popular snacks now share top billing among the 26 worst polluters of the Laguna de Bay last year, according to a pungent resolution by the environmental record of companies operating near the watershed leading to the lake.

The establishments were given the "Pasaway sa Lawa" Award (or, the award for rivalry corners on the lake) by the Laguna Lake Development Authority in ceremonies yesterday in Makati, which also recognized the cause south friendly of the firms that were evaluated.

KFC Food Products, manufacturer of the popular corn snack, Boy Bawang, joined ubiquitous food chains Jollibee, McDonald's, KFC, Chowking and Mang's Restaurant in the roster of top Laguna de Bay polluters.

Report card

"Unless these companies change their ways, the public should just boycott them," said Raquel Nisperayao, who heads the monitoring group for the Laguna de Bay area.

Seven of its second pass the (1–20) shame campaign seeks to publicize the worst environmental violators that dump untreated wastewater into the lake in hopes of preventing them into action.

Jollibee had four of its branches—Pasig Kinabuhan, Market Ave. Pasig, San Andres Molave and Kindlon—on the shame list, while each rival McDonald's made the dishonor roll because of its fairview branch.

Chowking was named for violations committed by two of its branches, San Isidro Del Pilar and Sucat and Espi Ave. Offices.

The Acropolis Libis branch of KFC and the Quezon Ave. branch of Max's Restaurant gave their companies the dubious distinction, as did Gerry's Grill Libis.

Nisperayao explained that although the food chains are not located near the lake, they dump untreated wastewater that goes into the creeks emptying into the Pasig River and eventually to Laguna de Bay.

Also named to the list of delinquents were Robina Farms 51, Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Herodicher Plaza Mall, Cosun Enterprises, The New Allerpaz, CPF Foam, The Wave Federal Bonte Oil Corp., Wynsum Corporate Plaza.

Metro Manufacturing, Mga Green Maysag Industrial Development Corp., Advet Paper Mills, Palasdale Heights, Hanston Paper Phils., BEPH Steam Laundry, and Ultratex Fibers Los Baños.

No representative from the erring companies appeared at yesterday's event to accept the Pasaway Award.

Dolora Sepulveda, the LLDA officer in charge, said the agency came up with the shame list after a year-long monitoring and surveillance process, informal conferences and deliberations.

The performances of the companies were rated according to a color-coded system of evaluation.

Rated "black" were the companies of those which were found to have completely bypassed the wastewater treatment process and discharged untreated wastes directly into the lake.

Rated "green" were companies that showed levels of less than 40 mg. per liter of BOD, have an operating legal cases, and features easily identifiable discharge points for treated wastewater.

In between were ratings of "blue" and "red," with blue just a step behind green and red two steps behind. Up to 600 companies were evaluated this year, with plans of expanding the coverage to 2,000 next year, Nisperayao said.

At yesterday's ceremonies, three companies that were given ratings were honored. MI Foods & Beverage Phils. of Ibaan, Lanz Textile Phils. and Universal Robina Corp.–Choco in Pasig.

That done, the awards were for real and the companies chief executive representatives to accept their plaques.

MI Foods Supervisor Danilo Ferrer, who spoke on behalf of the green awardees, said he always tells his employees to comply with environmental laws even when the companies around them do not.

"This great performance only became possible because my policy is, let's not look at what other industries are doing. Let's just make it a point to follow the law and help protect the environment," he said.

Perry-severe establishments were also honored for achieving a blue rating, including Suzuki Jeepney Corp. which was recognized for having cleaned the canal improvement, becoming barely from a black rating the year before.

GREEN HAUL

Students, media men, soldiers, policemen and civilian employees of different government agencies crowd a narrow trail as they trek to the Mayon Volcano Natural Park in Sto. Domingo, Albay, for yesterday's launching of the Trees for Life project in the Bicol region. More than 2.6 million seedlings were expected to be planted this month in Bicol alone.

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MMDA gets more funds for flood control

By Michael Lim Ubac

PATH MORE FLASH FLOOD CORE HEIGHTS Budget

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya to increase the proposed allocation for flood control, which is tucked under the budget of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Mr. Arroyo has increased the agency's flood control budget from P331 million this year to P550 million next year, Andaya said.

The increase will be reflected on the proposed 2008 national budget set to be filed by Malacañang in the House of Representatives on Aug. 23.

Andaya said the budget would be used to improve the drainage system in the flood-prone areas of the metropolis.

"It is not for dredging," he clarified. "The budget will go to drainage construction and improvement."

Andaya said the supervisory authority of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)–National Capital Region for flood control was now with the MMDA.

Correction

In the Aug. 17 issue, a front page story—"Stranded luxury cars murdered"—identified erroneously some of the smuggled luxury vehicles destroyed by the government. The 33 vehicles destroyed are as follows: Lincoln Navigator (1), BMW 745 (5), Mitsubishi GTO (1), Chevrolet Suburban (1), Toyota Corolla (1), BMW 750i (1), Toyota Innova (4), Hyundai Grandeur (2), Toyota Estima (1), Mazda Avenza (1), Mitsubishi Pajero Junior (1) and Mitsubishi Cordias (1).

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, August 18, 2007
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Anni Francisci de Chantal

1st Reading: Jer 24:1-8-29
Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

Little children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them while praying, but the disciples scolded those who brought them. Jesus then said, "Let them be! for no one may the children from coming to me; the kingdom of heaven belongs to people such as these." He then laid his hands on them and went his way.

Commentary

Do not worry who you will eat or not eat of your other cloth if you think what you will wear. Dad alone, and the people are in other God, knowing that God freely and will not forgive if they do not eat and drink other gods. But since a sinful creature their covenant renewed once again with God, according to the book of the law what is expected of the people. Andrea has collected them into the land and set them and to their own heritage promised. Andrea also. The translation from slavery to freedom is complete—now they life in the land of their heritage.

Jesus blesses the child so that it was brought to him and children he disciples for people to keep the them from coming to him. He must be as children—with no power, no arrogance, no plans or envy, farmers who compete, mean, or primarily no desire, are same as the sense of Jesus' children and for those who are small, not big from other, animal male, if or their own and as a refund to drugs or whether labor but not children for all those under the age of 18. He used the adjective—this is one from the book—what Jesus is taught to be his circumstance, and other's point. Are we the children of God?

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Miriam wants mayors sacked for Metro floods

SEN. MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO wants the Ombudsman to suspend or lock out city mayors who fail to clean up their area's clogged drainage systems, the main culprit in the flooding of the metropolis during every heavy downpour.

"Despite their mandate under the law to provide efficient and effective programs and mechanisms for solid waste disposal, sewerage systems, and flood control, all appear that too visible and effective efforts have been taken by the mayors to solve the problem of flooding in Metro Manila," said Santiago in a statement yesterday.

Santiago said she would file a resolution on Monday to investigate the liability of public officials.

"The liable officials will be referred to the Ombudsman for criminal prosecution and possible suspension and eventual removal from public office. Under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, a public officer that causes any undue injury to any party through gross inexcusable negligence is guilty of corruption," she said.

Citing the 1999 Supreme Court decision in Alejandro versus the People, Santiago said: "Gross inexcusable negligence was defined as negligence characterized by the want of even slight care, acting or omitting to act in a situation where there is a duty to act, not injurious, lastly, but willfully and wantonly with a conscious indifference to consequences in so far as other persons may be affected."

Santiago noted that the Philippine Ambassadors, Deputies and Ministers Service Administration Organic has identified garbage clogging of drainage systems as the main reason for the widespread flooding in Metro Manila.

MFG, Gilbert Asuncion-N

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World-renowned artists

YOUNG THOMASIAN ACHIEVER AWARD
ANTHONY ROLANDO T. GOLEZ, M.D.
Deputy Administrator of the Office of Civil Defense
MICHIKO S. YAMAMOTO
Writer-producer of the critically-acclaimed films "Magnifico" and "The Blossoming of Maxima Oliveros"

THOMASIAN FAMILY AWARD
ANTONIO A. UY, SR., M.D. (†)
RECHILDA LUMALIG-UY
PAMELA LUMALIG-UY
ANTONIO A. UY, JR., M.D.

Puno says SC to use writ of 'amparo'

From page A1

manner, they are able to get away with it," Puno said.

He said the writ of amparo (the Spanish word for "protection"), which the Supreme Court has been working on, would stop the military of such a defense.

'Habeas data'

Under the writ, families of victims will also be given the right to access information pertaining to their cases—a constitutional right called the "habeas data" contained in several documents in Latin America.

"If you have this right, it will be very difficult for the state agents and authorities to be able to escape their culpability ... That is more or less the general sense of the writ," Puno said.

'Alien' bangus ...

From page A1

markets here affecting local producers and wholesalers who are trying to stop its importation.

City agriculturist Serena Medina said the biggest shipment, so far, was last week at the height of nationwide rains, when at least two tons of bangus harvested from Laguna and other provinces were delivered here.

Aldin Perez, president of the Malitgan-Alipan-Dagupan Vendors Federation, said the "alien" bangus started arriving here last June.

"They came by jeeploads...at least one a day—in the last three months," Perez said.

Cheaper by P20

He said the alien bangus were being sold P15 or P20 cheaper than the local bangus.

What hurt local fish growers most, Perez said, was that these alien bangus were being passed off by vendors as "genuine" Dagupan bangus.

Bangus growers and vendors here said the bangus variety farmed in Dagupan's fishponds and cages is the tastiest in the world.

"The reputation of Dagupan's top product would be ruined if we do not do something about that," Perez said.

To the untrained eye, an alien bangus looks exactly like a Dagupan bangus. To tell the difference, one has to smell the gills.

"An alien bangus has that distinctive, unpleasant, mud-like odor," Perez said.

But some vendors have become creative, Perez said, by applying tawas (alum) on the bangus to eliminate the odor.

"We have worked very hard to marketing our bangus as the best in the world and we should not allow these 'aliens' to destroy it[just like that," Perez said.

The annual Bangus Festival, which began in 2000, uses a marketing strategy that involved local bangus producers.

Perez said her group had asked the city government to ban the entry of bangus harvested in other provinces.

However, Medina, the city agriculturist, said it would be illegal for the local government to impose a ban against bangus produced in other areas.

"We cannot do that. This is a free market," she said.

No health risks

Medina added that the entry of other bangus varieties in the market depends on the consignees (new wholesalers) themselves.

"They should get their act together and agree on how to deal with alien bangus," she said.

Fourth Illegitimacy Committee Arnaldo Alipio, a bangus wholesaler, said there is no law stopping the sale of bangus coming from Laguna and other provinces.

"They don't pose health risks to the people. It's just the taste [that is different]," Alipio said.

He said it is the buyer's responsibility to find out whether what he or she is buying is an "inferior" bangus.

"A buyer should know what he or she is buying. They can even ask around if they are not sure about the [origin of the] product," Alipio said.

He said he would not refuse bangus from other provinces that are taken to his stall at the Magsaysay fish market here because "that is business."

"They are questioning us because we are making [more] money than them, because our products move faster. But they are supposed to have better quality products, so they should be able to market them," Alipio said. "We are just giving people, who do not have much money, a choice."

Perez and her group would soon be posting signs in public markets here to warn consumers about the proliferation of alien bangus.

Package like chickens

But Medina said more than the warning signs, local producers should develop a breeding process for their product.

"We also have to be creative," Medina said.

She said she met with bangus wholesalers here and they have agreed to draw up a process to promote the Dagupan bangus.

For instance, she said, they could package bangus the way dressed chickens are sold in supermarkets.

"This way, we will be able to easily determine who among the wholesalers are dealing with a specific [variety of] bangus," Medina said.

The members of the tribunal met for the third time yesterday for the writ's draft, according to the Chief Justice. The final version, which is planned to be made retroactive, will be released next month.

"That will be subject to the approval of the members of the court, but there is no legal impediment to make this rule retroactive," Puno said.

No more usual claims

The Chief Justice spoke with reporters on the sidelines of the Valenzuela Against Crime and Corruption's 9th Founding anniversary celebration at Camp Crame in Quezon City.

Giving a brief overview of the writ's framework, Puno said it was the new remedy that the high court was drawing up in order to address the spate of extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances.

He said it would prohibit the military from coming up with its usual claims and accord victims and aggrieved parties better witness protection and temporary protection orders.

Should it be made retroactive, the writ will be applied to the case of missing activist Jonas Burgos, who was abducted supposedly by the military in a Quezon City mall on April 28.

Jonas Burgos' case

Late last month, the Supreme Court issued a writ of habeas corpus in response to a petition filed by Jonas' mother Edita Burgos, and ordered Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and other respondents to present Jonas before the Court of Appeals.

But the AFP officials showed up without Jonas, reiterating to the appellate court that he was not in their custody and that they were not aware of his whereabouts.

"[They cannot simply deny] that will be prohibited," Puno said. "We will be setting up a standard for them to follow, and if they cannot satisfy the standard, the proper relief can be granted by the court."

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Heavy rains fill up Luzon dams

By TJ Burgonio
and Tarra Quismundo

AFTER MORE THAN A WEEK OF monsoon rains, most of the seven major dams in Luzon are close to reaching a safety level, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

Angel Rimando observed the most significant recovery, rising by seven 10 meters from a low of 176.68 m on Aug. 6 to a high of 185.2 m yesterday, thanks to the rains unleashed by two storms and tropical depression "Egay".

As 1405.20 m above sea level, the Angat Dam in Norzagaray, Bulacan, is 0.2 meters above the critical level of 185 m, and a mere 5.84 m off the rule curve.

The rule curve is the elevation of water at which a dam could normally supply water for power generation, domestic use and irrigation.

"It's expected to further rise with the rains brought by 'Egay'," said Jesus Espinueva, chief of operations of Pagasa's flood forecasting division.

The reservoir supplies water to 12 million residents in Metro Manila and Cainta residing at least 10,000 hectares of farmland in Central Luzon.

Binga and Ambuklao dams in Benguet, on the other hand, have stabilized.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, the reservoir elevation in Binga was 749.97 m or 12.10 m above the rule curve. In Ambuklao, it was 571.25, or 10.37 m above the rule curve.

The water level in San Roque dam in Pangasinan was pegged at 249.31 m as of 6 a.m. yesterday.

The supply of water in the reservoir should not be a problem, because it sources its water from Binga and Ambuklao dams, according to the hydropower company.

But what remained a source of concern are the Magat Dam in Isabela, whose level at 182.33 was still 18.45 m off the rule curve, and Pantabangan Dam in Puerto Azul, whose level at 192.51 m was 13.18 m off the rule curve.

"The only concern now of hydro meteorologists are Magat and Pantabangan dams," Pagasa weather forecaster Robert Rimando said.

"These are drastic rises for Binga, but these are thin and not rain-bearing clouds," Espinueva said. "It will be receiving rain, but not as intense and heavy as the rainfall that fought will get."

The Philippine Air Force 903rd Weather Group is set to standby to pursue its cloud-seeding mission and fill the Binga Dam, the region's main water source.

Lt. Col. Rhodie Mesia, a station weather officer and expert meteorologist, told the Inquirer the cloud-seeding mission may swell by an additional 10 hours.

"According to our weather officers there, there are only drizzles and winds to Cagayan ... That's why it's really necessary to continue cloud-seeding there," Mesia said.

"It's really hard to find seedable clouds there ... We had two sorties where no one available clouds and when we got there, they had already dissipated. The weather is really weird up there," said 1st Lt. Russell Jose of the 220th Air lift Wing.

LUCKY 7. IT IS NOT. Jesusa Bautista, a domestic doyen and he talks to a client during the trading day on Friday at the Philippine Stock Exchange in Makati City. —P

Investors now on risk-aversion stance, says BSP chief

From page A1

dent this process is done in an orderly fashion so there's no disruption," Tetangco told reporters.

"Once the external factors settle down, and markets come again reliant on fundamentals, we should see a positive effect on our own markets, given that the Philippines continues to have sound macroeconomic fundamentals," he said.

The peso left a three-month low of 41.561 per dollar yesterday, with the currency's woes in the last four weeks at nearly 5 percent. Traders said the central bank had intervened in the market yesterday to support the peso.

The local stock market has fallen more than 10 percent in three days to Friday, losing its gains this year.

Analysts said this was a standard precaution because these scenes had not reached their meltdown levels. One related story on Page A1.1

Expect rain till today

"Until Saturday, we should expect wet conditions," said Rimando of Pagasa's flood forecasting and development.

Pagasa also led residents in areas covered by storm signals against big waves and storm surges, and flows rising in low-lying areas against flashfloods and landslides.

Egay's gusts forced trains hpkil to dangs trips to Baguio, Palauan and Bicolano. The same storm's flight to Sangley and Calbayog ways briefly delayed.

Cebu Pacific Air's trips to Iloilo, Cebu and Bohol yesterday were also cancelled because of up to 30 minutes. South East Asian Airlines also reported brief delays.

Outbound flights using the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 1 and Philippine Airlines flights departing from the Naia Complex also remained to be delayed.

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But some incoming PAL flights suffered problems. An airline spokesperson said a Manila-Manila flight was canceled "due to aircraft situations". With reports from Fely Contreras and Christine Avendaño in Albay

In Tiliwaran Vinojo Jr., Eduardo Calalay, Vincent Calayan and Gabriel Cavalierosa, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Norbert Joaquin, Jun Madlig, and Gerardo Pinto, Inquirer Central Luzon, Agence Reuters

39 planes seek shelter from 'Egay' in Clark, Subic

From page A1

GRAPHIC: This picture shows why it makes a lot of sense for schools to remain shut on Friday and for government to suspend work in public offices. —NOTE

are to fall over the western section of Luzon, including Metro Manila, said eastern northern Luzon, Pagasa weather weather specialist Robert Sawi said.

"As to make the country, it will further enhance the monsoon rain. So in Manila, we will continue to experience the same tendency to heavy rainfall," he said in a phone interview.

But he added, "the weather disturbance should dissipate," supervising. Tomorrow Rene Medina told reporters.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, Egay was spotted 150 km northeast of Baras, Batanes, the closest it got to a Philippine land mass, according to Sawi.

Humanitarian considerations

Rolando Bautista, head of the Subic Bay International Airport operations center, said at least 27 aircraft—28 of them of another plane Bokod Express (BAE) from Hong Kong—were seeking shelter at Subic in Egay. Intermediately called Bajaj Interim Airport to Clark.

"They will be here just to escape the storm, which is expected to be strong, so it will be safer at the Hong Kong terminal," Bautista said.

He said Subic airport could accommodate as many as 35 planes at a time.

"We have an Iran (Antonov, Ilyushin) Aviation Organization agreement with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in case of emergencies. In case of evacuation, there is a standing agreement that we accommodate evacuations," said Air Transportation Office chief Nilo Jadies.

"That's part of humanitarian considerations. That's done all over the world," he added.

The Philippines has accommodated stolen seeking planes from years ago when 16 aircraft from Taipei flew to the country to avoid a storm on the island, said Jadies.

"Actually, the only aircraft might say in the country to park here for "in most two days," or until the weather cleared.

Still no classes

Authorities suspended classes in all public townships in Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Bulacan, Zambales, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga and Tarlac.

Employees in government offices were not home early.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said there would still be no classes today at all levels in the Northern Capital Region as well as in Tarlac, Pampanga and Bulacan.

'High load'

Provincial rules and whipping winds grounded some domestic flights and delayed several others.

After all the sightseer it had brought upon street traffic and other disruptions in slow and weak schedules, Egay had now only a few dozen families to evacuation centers in Metro Manila and neighboring Rizal province, based on figures from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Though the figure may still rise overnight. He evidently low numbers had fooled Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral agreeing that this year's calamities have posed a "vastly light load" for her agency in terms of relief operations, compared to last year.

Since Wednesday, the DSWD has aided 30 families forced to evacuate by floods in Marikina City, flight families in different parts of Rizal province also ever joined.

Clarin Alight Readhouses smoke several towns in Pampanga.

More than 1,000 people were evacuated from flooded villages in Pampanga, where 76 houses were destroyed, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council in Bulacan, said twenty more had yet received reports of severe flooding in any town in Bulacan as of Friday morning.

Despite the rains, farmers in Isabela started harvesting their corn plants stilled by a dry spell in March to month so there would be little confusion.

Generalde Lacsa, regional director of the Department of Agriculture, said the region's subsistence sector lost at least P700 million from the drought, with Isabela registering P450 million worth of losses in corn production.

In Cagayan, farmers said light but continuous rains brought relief to their parched farms but these came too late and could not save crops damaged by the drought.

Rains were steady in Baguio City but many roads leading to the summer capital were open, civil defense officials said.

Cordillera civil defense officer Imelda Bonito said rains from tropical storm "Domeng" and "Egay" last week and Typhoon Egay helped replenish the dams of five hydroelectric power facilities in Benguet, prompting the National Power Corp. to open the sluice gates of Ambuklao and Binga dams by a notch.

Bonito said this was a standard precaution because these scenes had not reached their meltdown levels. See related story on Page A1.1

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Rise in overseas remittances

Meanwhile, Tetangco said the rise in overseas remittances in the first half of the year could help cushion the impact of the global credit crisis on the economy.

Remittances from overseas Filipinos rose 13.5 percent to $8.5 billion in the first six months of the year, from $7.5 billion in the same period last year.

"The true caveat to the risk aversion is still there. I say optimistic soul as opportunity for treasured to sell," said Sun Hodges, research head at Transpacific Securities.

Global stocks have been shedding down since May. S. market sectors about 5% subprime loans and their brokers financial impact overwhelmed markets in Asia, Europe and the United States.

The US subprime sector supplies home loans to people credit poor credit histories.

Overnight in Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average on Thursday closed down just 16 points after falling more than 140 points during the day, pulling off a dramatic late-session turnaround on massive bargain-hunting.

Investors in the Philippines and some other Asian markets tried to bounce back on Wall Street's late rally, but the Tokyo Stock Exchange opened weak and fell throughout the day. The Nikkei 225 lost 5.42 to close at its lowest level since August last year.

Taking cue from US

Dealers yesterday said Philippine share prices still take their cue from the US stock market amid the continuing global concerns over the credit problems there.

They said the local buyers had failed to react to favorable local news as investors remain too caught up in fears over the tightening of the global credit market due to problems in the US housing market.

The Dow Jones Industrial average is closer to an important support level at 12,000 level. A rebound in the US market will propel the local market back above 3,600," forecast Jose Mariano Capital Securities.

However, he warned that "a break of the 12,000 support level can have disastrous consequences."

Risky home loans

Asian markets, alongside global markets elsewhere in the world, have been sold off since late July when the subprime problems associated with risky home loans first became evident through losses to major Dow Jones hedge funds.

Stills on the stock markets have accelerated since then, when most benchmarks were trading at record or multi-year highs.

However, Asian investors remain confident here in the market's ca go before borrowing cut losses many feel the full extent of the subprime problems are yet to be made public.

In the Philippines yesterday losers outnumber winners 109 to 31, with 29 issues unchanged. Leading investors are the depository receipts of recently listed broadcast company ABS-Network and property developers Megaworld Corp. and Ayala Land.

Traders said the prospects of an extended weekend may have also sidelined still active investors to take profit on recent big gains.

Financial markets will be closed on Monday for a holiday commemorating the anniversary of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. Reuters, AFP and AP

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RP wins $425-M case over Naia 3

from page 1

and progress. Work on Nias Terminal 3 will continue with more vigor and sleep from on safety and convenience, I commend the office of the Solicitor General and the policy group led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita for this hard-earned legal victory which has also resulted in the full restoration of the world," the President later said in a statement.

Fraport, the principal investor in the Philippine International Air Terminals Corp. (PIATCO) consortium that built Naia 3, went to the World Bank to recover the $425 million that it said it had invested in the project after the Philippine government refused the termination of its contract in 2004 following the Supreme Court's voiding of the Pinto's contract to build and operate the terminal.

The German firm also claimed protection for its investment under a bilateral investment treaty between Germany and the Philippines.

Proceedings were filed by the Washington, D.C.-based ICSID—the arbitration body set up by the World Bank to facilitate the settlement of investment disputes among member countries—"is not just a victory of an airport, it is a victory of a sovereign state, of the Philippine motto. Some [which] I cannot multiplied and accused of being unfair, of being corrupt."

Violations of RP laws

He said the most relevant which the government won in the eyes of the world was "the biggest victory" as Fraport itself made the allegation that it was the Philippine government its institutions and officials that had committed fraud.

"From this case, the allegations of the Philippine government were soundly affirmed and upheld by the ICSID, saying that the case filed by Fraport must be dismissed because in the first place, Fraport made a lot of violations of the laws of the Philippines," said Hernandez.

The ruling has "shown the world that foreign investors in the Philippines are given fair treatment and that if foreign investors are the ones guilty of violating the laws of the Philippines, there remains for any protection that can be given," she said.

In Frankfurt, Fraport announced the ICSID decision on its end, sending the firm's shares down almost 8 percent.

Fraport said it was "investigating the decision as well as further actions in this matter," a Reuters report said.

Naia 3 was approved for construction in 1997 and was originally scheduled to open in late 2002.

In 2002, however, the Arroyo administration voided Pinto's contract on the grounds that certain provisions were illegally promulgated by ousted President Joseph Estrada in 1998 in the final outrage of his government.

SC nullifies contract

The Supreme Court upheld the government, nullifying the Pinto contract in 2003. The Pinto's City court awarded a writ of possession in favor of the government the following year. However, it ordered the government to make an initial payment of P3 billion to Pinto while it study to determine the actual cost of the terminal to validate Fraport's claim to recover its investment.

Fraport brought its case for compensation to the World Bank while Pinto sought a separate arbitration with the Singapore-based International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Tribunal in August 2006, the ICC ordered the government to return the facility to Pinto or pay the P3 billion.

While the P3 billion has apparently been paid, the 189,000-sq.m. facility remains closed while various construction and repair works are being completed and lease contracts with airlines and concessionaires are being negotiated.

The President said last month that the terminal, with a capacity of 13 million passengers a year, would hopefully be ready for business by the end of the year.

The decision

In a 146-page decision, the ICSID sustained the Philippine government's contention that the "dispute is not within its jurisdiction."

In its request for arbitration, Fraport claimed its own 44 percent of Pinto, "directly and indirectly through cascade companies that have equity ownership in them," said Hernandez.

Fraport claimed that it was entitled to a refund of its investment of $425 million (P19.5 billion) and made impositions of "unfair and inequitable treatment, violation of minimum standards of justice and expropriation against the Philippine government.

"[If we add the other claims for interest and other costs] we have the case, the Philippines would have been liable for P27.4 billion," Hernandez said.

The Philippine government, however, refused to pay the interest and instead accused Fraport of wrongdoing.

It submitted to ICSID the Supreme Court ruling declaring the Pinto contract null and void ab initio for violating the Constitution, the build-operate-transfer law and the rules on public bidding.

The government challenged the ICSID's jurisdiction over the case on the ground that the protection afforded by the Philippines' bilateral investment treaty with Germany did not extend to investments made in violation of Philippine laws.

It argued that the Nias 3 concession was a public utility subject to nationality restrictions imposed by the Constitution and the prohibitions of the Anti-Dummy Law, and that Fraport openly sought to evade the nationality requirement limiting foreign ownership to 40 percent.

It also submitted to the justice department finding that Fraport was guilty of violating the Anti-Dummy Law.

Pinto had claimed to be 60-percent owner owned by the Ongpin-Pilipino Chinoy family, 30 percent by Fraport and 10 percent by the Nicolas Bouygues Corp. of France.

But in the Anti-Dummy Law case it filed against Pinto and Fraport officials, the government alleged that through a fraudulent scheme of corporate layering, Fraport actually owned 61.4 percent of Pinto.

The ICSID decision, which Hernandez said would no longer be subject to motions for reconsideration, has removed a major legal obstacle to the operation of the Nias 3.

She said it would adversely affect Pinto's case against the Philippines in Singapore although the Fraport issue was separate from Pinto's.

Safety issues

Hernandez said hearings on the Pinto case at the ICC would be conducted during the first three weeks of November.

As for the compensation case still pending with the Pasay City Regional Trial Court, Pinto's claim for compensation is the subject of haggling, after the initial P3 billion was paid, she said.

Hernandez said it was no longer the legal issues that were standing in the way of opening the terminal but the safety issues. A long-delayed opening last year was delayed after a section of the ceiling collapsed and the facility was abandoned to be imminently defective.

Favorable

According to lawyer Manuel Gaite, deputy executive secretary for legal affairs, the ICSID ruling would be favorable to the two-year negotiations with Tatarales Corp., Pinto's Japan-based general contractor for refurbishing the terminal's structural defects and completing the construction of the terminal.

"At least Tatarales will be more confident of dealing with the Philippine government. They were always afraid [of] Pinto's getting hold of them," said Gaite.

Alfonso Cusi, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority said the ICSID decision was "a big victory" and assured the public the Nias would open. Nias 3 "is presently and expeditiously as possible within the parameters that the law allows us."

He said the terminal was "almost 99-percent complete."

The Villanueva & Ingangco law office whose principal, Arthur Villanueva, the then private lawyer of Mr. Arroyo, was accused by Fraport of demanding hundreds of millions of dollars in protection money, said the ICSID decision was a "vindication for ARTHigatos."

Several lawyers of the Gaite Mod is had cases against Fraport officials for the unfounded allegations which were included in the German firm's submission to the ICSID.

Prominent people have responded...

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's actual POPCEN interview in Makalang as conducted by enumerator Jeanette Andres on August 8, 2007.

Other Filipino households have likewise done their share...

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Cash-strapped Abu Sayyaf uses YouTube to raise funds

By Cornelio G. Bonoan

ONCE AGAIN SEEN CASH POOR because they collected from kidnapping ransom from tourists, the Abu Sayyaf bandits are now desperate for financial and material help and are "so daring" the military said yesterday.

Military officials made the claim after viewing a 42-minute video posted on the Internet, which features two top Abu Sayyaf leaders—the brothers Khadafy and Abterjak Janjalani—seeking the support and assistance from the Muslim world.

The two Janjalanis are now dead, having been killed in fighting with government troops.

The video, titled "Abu Sayyaf Group: Filipino Jihad Is Coming" and available in YouTube, shows the two brothers making separate appeals for financial support for the Abu Sayyaf Group—described in the video as an "Islamic movement."

It was released at a time when the military was carrying out a renewed offensive against the terrorist group to calm and weaken.

"If you will look at the video, there are old video ... and if you will notice, those speaking there are the leaders ASG commanders, the two Janjalanis," military information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro told reporters.

'Just a propaganda'

"Why is (it) that the former leadership of the ASG are speaking? Where are the current leadership, who the head?" he asked.

Abterjak Janjalani was killed in an encounter with Basilan police on 1998 while his brother, Khadafy, was killed in a military encounter in Sulu in September last year.

It was only in January this year that Khadafy's death was confirmed.

Bacarro dismissed the video as "just a propaganda," pointing out that the ASG was journeying itself to an Islamic movement.

Success in fighting terrorism

Bacarro quoted the ASG in saying in the video that "their military aids are not for personal or political gains."

"But would you call the acts such as elections for purposes of getting money, kidnapping, for-bombing, raping of women, etc—would you remember that an act to pursue their end goes? I don't think so," Bacarro said.

Regarding the Abu Sayyaf appeal for monetary and financial support, he said this was an indication of "how effective the government is—the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, as well as us military here (the intelligence community), relative to the fight against terrorism."

No more support

Bacarro said the group was "in disarray" and now appealing for help because the international community became the military was able to prevent them from their "resource-generating activities."

"It just shows that they are really having difficulty, particularly in their resource generation," Bacarro said.

"They have admitted in the video the conditions that they are in—there is lack of ammunition, lack of armaments, lack of medicine and so forth," he said.

Bacarro also said this showed the people in Mindanao did not want to support the ASG anymore.

He said the international community "should not fall victims to the ploy of the propaganda."

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Biazon sees pattern in 2 Basilan ...

From page A1

Marines and the beheading of 10 of them in a seven-hour ambush of a military convoy in Al-Barka.

But Biazon, who chairs the Senate committee on national security and defense, said he had also told Teñirase that the witnesses should hopefully present to security agencies.

Teñirase, a former Navy lieutenant accused of coup d'etat for leading the Oakwood mutiny in July 2003, filed on Tuesday a resolution seeking a Senate inquiry into "insider information" that Palace officials had had a hand in the Al-Barka ambush.

"In our discussion, [the information] seemed to [indicate that] there might have been a attempt to prevent the [Al-Barka] incident and the Limatan incident—almost the same pattern, the same scenario, in the fact that soldiers were killed," Biazon said.

"There is a parallelism," he said.

Surrounded

On June 2, 2001, scores of fleeing Abu Sayyaf bandits were surrounded by government troops in the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital compound in Lamitan.

But after several hours of heavy fighting, all the cornered bandits managed to escape with their hostages, leaving a number of soldiers killed.

It was later alleged that ranking military officials had held back the troops and delayed reinforcements to allow the bandits to escape. Congress investigated the alleged collusion but in the end, no military official was found liable.

"In Lamitan, wasn't there a reinforcement order by the brigade commander [that was] countermanded? There are other parallelisms I cannot discuss at this point," Biazon said yesterday.

Biazon said the Senate should look into Teñirase' allegation of a conspiracy behind the Al-Barka ambush in the wake of similar claims made by other military officials.

He was referring to the Senate's report on Sept. 17 quoting an unnamed general who claimed that a key political figure in Basilan had had a hand in the incidents, and was using the military for his own ends against the Abu Sayyaf.

Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, the former governor of the province, had denied having anything to do with the killings, and dedicated four alleged Abu Sayyaf members as responsible for the beheadings.

Some officials responsible

Biazon said it appeared that certain officials were responsible for the soldiers' deaths. "That is not my conclusion; this is coming out from news items," he said, refusing to elaborate.

The fighting between government troops and Moro insurgents in Basilan has since spilled over to Sulu. Exactly a month after the 14 Marines were killed, 26 soldiers died in ambushes and encounters in Sulu.

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Biazon said Teñirase had given him a fairly good idea of the identities of the ranking officials who supposedly masterminded the Al-Barka ambush, as well as the witnesses.

"Teñirase shared with me much information that was not written in his resolution. Information on witnesses that at this point, the identities of [the involved] officials are best left unpublished," Biazon said.

He declined to answer when asked how high in rank these officials were.

He also refused to say how many witnesses there were, but said Teñirase had indicated that "some are soldiers and some are civilians."

"At the moment, the indication is that the witnesses are willing to come on record readily," he said.

Witnesses' security

Biazon said the information that Teñirase had provided to he could serve as basis for holding committee hearings.

"But I need more than this, at least something that can be made formal. We have to know where to call," he said.

From the information he has gathered, Biazon is considering holding an executive session to pinpoint the witnesses.

He said he would wait for Teñirase to tell the witnesses to refute news statements. "Otherwise, I will not them out."

Biazon said the witnesses had spoken only with Teñirase. "To me, it's very important to know the security of these people because the information shared is very sensitive," he said.

He also insisted on having Teñirase attend the committee hearings. He said he would appeal to the other senators members that the hearings be held in the Senate beig just so the latter could participate.

"This is a serious issue that affects not only the morale of the soldiers ..." Biazon said.

He said that if it would not be resolved, he hoped it would not result in "certain consequences that could destabilize the AFP."

Teñirase has been barred by the Makati Regional Trial Court from attending Senate sessions.

His way

At a news briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, AFP information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said the ground commanders in Basilan and Sulu acted "whatever they felt be used" by politicians, as the unnamed general had claimed to the Senate.

"So commander is his right hand would allow his men to go into a situation that would harm them," Bacarro said.

Told that it was Teñirase who had been made the claim that the Marine troops were "led to the enemy," Bacarro said the detained senator might have sources telling him so, "but that's not happening."

"Because once you go out with your troops, you become responsible for their families as well," he said.

Asked whether the allegation was just an indirect against the AFP, Bacarro said there might be some groups resulting to connive still with in the military.

"But I'm happy to say those of them will continue to fail because our soldiers, especially the Marines, are focused on their mandate," Bacarro said. "There have always been efforts to create that sense of divisiveness, but I would like to say that the AFP remains one solid organization, and we will not allow such a thing to happen." With reports from Christine O. Avendaño

SMALL COMFORT Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, Sulu task chief, tells the Canadian bomb tech that 2nd Lt. Charlie Anthony Castañeda will be buried with full military honors. From left are the latter officer's father, retired PO3 Sgt. Hipolito Castañeda Jr.; Canadian diver; another Alaska and diver Kim Sea.

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Blind Chinese leads way in fight for rights of poor

From page A9

to assert their legitimate rights under the law." There will be a recognition ceremony on Aug. 31 to honor him and six other lawyers in Shandong, a coastal province on the eastern edge of northern China. The youngest child of a peasant family, he spent most of his early years at home having to devote to formal education due to his disability.

Chen attended Linyi Elementary School for the Blind (1989 to 1994) and the Qingchu School for the Blind (1994 to 1996). At this time, he taught himself English and studied the Chinese legal system also on his own. From 1996 to 2001, he took advantage of a privilege to study acupuncture and massage. The program offered by the disabled at the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Village consultant

In 1996, Chen had his first recorded direct experience with Chinese bureaucracy. He went to the tax office in Beijing to complain that his payments were made to a person for his own which he was exempted for his disability. To his surprise, his payment was refunded. He moved to Beijing encouraged the village handicapped and farmers to consult him for their own legal problems.

From his office in Yuanjing in 2000, he organized farmers from his hometown and 78 surrounding villages to protest the politics of their tenure by a paper mill since 1998. When their protests were ignored by the company and local authorities, Chen and village leaders presented their case before reporters diplomats and journalists. The British Embassy responded by supporting the construction of a deep well with irrigation and potable water pipelines to bring clean water into the affected areas.

Fight for human rights

From 2000 to 2003, he initiated and managed the program of protecting the human rights of the handicapped under the auspices of the China Law Society, an initiative supported by the Federal Foundation of Bethel.

Records show that Chen's dealings with the British Embassy prompted local government to call him for investigation. It is the first arrest of local government taking notice of Chen's activities. It was also about this time that the international media became aware of Chen. The March 2005 issue of Newsweek Magazine had a good looking Chen Guangcheng on its cover to highlight its lead feature on China's country lawyers.

In 2000, Chen was recommended and participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program of the United States Department of State, his stay in the United States for one month. In 2004, he nominated the Chinese Awareness and Law for the Disabled Project with the support of the US National Endowment for Democracy and the Monica Fund.

By 2005, Chen then married to Yuan Weijing with whom he has two young children. Local law reports that local officials were forcing abortions and sterilizations among couples with two children in Linyi. A news release on Sep. 27, 2005 by the Washington Post Foreign Service tells of villagers' recounted their ordeal to Chen.

The report cited the case of one women, seven months pregnant, who was on the run from authorities when she learned that more than a dozen of her relatives were being held until she returned. The hostages, the report said, were not given food and water and were beaten. The women had no choice but to surrender. Her baby was aborted and she was forced to submit to sterilization.

Forced abortions

With a population of 1.3 billion, China is the most populated country in the world. Current projections estimate a population of anywhere from 1.4 to 1.6 billion in 2025, prompting government to aim at stabilizing population growth within the next few years.

It encourages the one-child policy in urban areas, a policy that first surfaced in the late 1970s under Deng Xiaoping. Although rural families may have more children are exempt from this policy.

In September 2002, government issued the new Population and Family Planning Law to standardize policies and practices in the implementation of family planning policies across the country and to safeguard the rights of people. Implementation of the policy however are local birth quotas upheld by stiff penalties and rewards for the local authorities.

Officially, the government opposes forced abortion and sterilization but coercion in the forms and villages is reportedly widespread as local officials have to meet population targets.

Reports show that in July 2004, the Linyi City Party Committee and government issued a document outlining the projects for strengthening population and family control. To implement the program, local officials in some districts of the city resorted to violent measures that resulted in forced abortions and sterilizations by the end of the year. By early 2005, the Linyi City government announced the July 2004 document so that in March 2005, villagers felt the pressure from local authorities.

Chen gathered all documents to file a class lawsuit against the local officials involved. While the class lawsuit was not pursued, this is especially the first known concerted domestic effort to challenge the use of violence in the enforcement of China's population policy. News of the class action suit was released by the Washington Post Foreign Service on Aug. 27, 2005.

Information leaks

The following month, the National Population and Family Planning Commission, the Cabinet-level ministry that manages population growth in China, sent a team to Linyi to investigate. According to the report of the Chinese Rights Defenders (CRD), a Chinese grass-roots advocacy group, the investigative team "found that there had been violations of law and policy in Linyi that had infringed the rights of citizens, and that as a consequence, some officials had been dismissed, while some were in detention and facing investigation for criminal responsibility."

In early August, Chen was placed under house arrest in his village, barred the exit of the month, he was able to escape to Beijing and, with the help of friends, met a reporter of Time Magazine, a Washington Post correspondent, foreign diplomats, and several lawyers based in Beijing who had volunteered to help in the lawsuit against Linyi authorities. On Sept. 6, 2005, while still in Beijing, Chen was seized by men who were later identified as police from Shandong province and Linyi.

The CRD report says that Chen was supposedly told by the Linyi Public Security Bureau that he was being held for revealing state information to foreign media and for illegally providing intelligence to foreign countries. The following day he was placed on house arrest.

Threats, arrests

Since Chen, Chen along with his family, friends, lawyers, neighbors and anyone else who showed support for or offered help to Chen were subjected to harassment, threats, arrests and assaults.

On March 11, 2006, Chen and two of his neighbors, one of whom was badly beaten and bleeding at that time, were brought to the Yinan County Public Security Bureau. There, he learned that the men were beaten while on his way home by four hooded persons with sticks and other weapons. Chen faced Yinan County officials and demanded an explanation. Local villagers began to

RIGHTLESS Blind human rights lawyer Chen Guangcheng and relatives against the c... mistreatments among people

Guangcheng (here with wife Yuan Weijing and child) has been championing citizens' rights in his village such as forced abortions and who already have two children as it goes against China's One-Child Policy.

crowd around Chen and the situation became a war of will between Chen and the villagers versus the local police. Mobsters erupted.

Sentenced to 4 years in jail

On Aug. 29, 2006, the People's Court of Yinan County prosecutor Chen Guangcheng to four years and three months in prison on charges of "wilfully damaging property and organizing a mob to disturb traffic." A Xinhua news report dated Aug. 8, 2006 says that court documents claim Cheng Guangcheng "... organized a group of people ... inhibit the exercise of working duties ... They interrupted traffic in the Yinghou Village section of the National Highway 205 ... Chen Guangcheng stood in the middle of the road to stop vehicles and directed the mob ... to pull out and stop traffic..." The CRO reports that witnesses were detained, interrogated, and tortured until they confessed that Chen took the lead in mobilizing villagers to block traffic.

Classic hero

The case was submitted for appeal before the Linyi Municipal People's Intermediate Court which, according to the CRO report, "rejected the lower Yinan County Court verdict" and sent back the case to the lower court for retrial. On Dec. 1, 2006, the lower court again convicted Chen Guangcheng for the same crimes and imposed the same sentence. This time, the appeals court upheld the sentence and charged Chen Guangcheng guilty of "gathering crowds to disrupt traffic order" after a closed-door hearing.

His family and human rights groups in China are actively working for Chen's release. They have called on the United Nations human rights bodies, the international community, the media, and other governments to study the case and lobby for Chen.

Chen Guangcheng's story is now being told across the globe. On April 30, 2006, he was in Time Magazine's list of "2006's Top 100 People Who Shape Our World" in the category of "Heroes and Pioneers."

In an interview with Time Magazine, Chen said: "Someone has to fight for justice with no voice. I guess that person is me."

Chen is definitely a classic hero.

INQUIRER

OPINION

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An embarrassing flop

EDITORIAL

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SPECTACULAR show of the Arroyo administration's extensive displeasure with smugglers and smuggling. But the destruction last Thursday of 18 motor vehicles at the Subic Bay Freeport only served to highlight how puny and pathetic are the government's efforts to stamp out the scourge.

Upon being told last week that several luxury vehicles had been seized at Subic for nonpayment of duties and taxes, President Macapagal-Arroyo promptly ordered that all of them be reduced to scrap. The list of vehicles included some that any car enthusiast would give an arm and a leg to own: a Lamborghini, a Ferrari, a Corvette, a Porsche Carrera, a Porsche Cayenne, a handful of BMWs. The head of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force, Antonio Villar, said some of these cars cost P16 million each or more. And if sold at auction, Villar said, the whole lot could fetch as much as P100 million.

The President, however, rejected that suggestion to hold an auction, even if that would have helped narrow somewhat the budget deficit. A sell-off would only end with the smugglers themselves getting back the cars, she believed. She wanted them to lose everything they had invested in that illegal venture, according to Cesar Re monde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, and she wanted to send a strong message that her administration was serious about stopping smuggling. The President was very angry, Remonde said. Her order was to destroy the cars, and she would be right there to witness what was going to be a well-publicized event.

The media were there for the carnival last Thursday and so were top officials of the Bureau of Customs, Department of Finance and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority. Mr Arroyo, however, was a no-show, reportedly because her bodyguard helicopter developed some trouble. Still the show went on—minus the iconic the flashy cars that she had ordered crushed to a pulp. Sure, giant backhoes tore up a Lincoln Navigator and three BMW X5 SUVs, but the 14 other vehicles destroyed were not the type or in a condition anyone would associate with luxury. As one spectator, who claimed to have some engaged in vehicular smuggling, scoffed, some of the cars "looked like garbage." And all together those cars could not have been worth more than P4.5 million, he estimated.

What happened to the Lamborghini, Ferrari, Porsche, etc., whose real value was estimated to be close to P100 million? It seems that the finance and customs officials suddenly developed cold feet at the last minute. Finance Secretary Gary Teves said the owners of those 14 flashy cars were questioning the legality of their confiscation and wanted to just ship them back to their ports of origin. "We will have to handle the legal processes first," he said.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the problem was that until last month, the SBMA had no rules covering abandoned vehicles. It is only now, under a new memorandum of agreement between the Bureau of Customs and the SBMA, that importers are given 60 days to claim their shipments, before these are classified as "abandoned" and only then may they be auctioned or destroyed. But since the cars arrived in February, they cannot be retroactively covered by this rule, he said.

In other words, the importers who didn't offer to pay the appropriate import duties for all of six months and just waited and waited to get those cars by some other mysterious ways may yet get back everything they paid for them. Meaning, the government will have no taxes, no cars, no income, and not even a good show of punishing sinners.

Where does this leave the President who wanted to put up an anti-smuggling show? Did she issue an illegal order or one that was out of doubtful legality? Why did nobody tell her before she gave the signal to smite her order public? Is she not putting good legal advice?

It is as if doubt of legality to seize and destroy the 14 luxury cars, what was the legal basis for consigning to the scrap heap the 16 cheaper vehicles? It seems that by putting up that show in Subic, finance and customs officials were trying to humor the President. What they have accomplished is to embarrass her and to demonstrate how lightly they take her avowed intention to curb smuggling.

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Mapping Mindanao

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ALL OF US CARRY IN OUR HEADS A MAP OF the places we like or we avoid—as scenery, or as settlers, as residents or as commuters. They may tell us new cost-saved points, by point with the area is under or experience. There will be many other maps of the same place, reflecting a variety of purposes and circumstances. In every map, the city will not have useful or practical it is, nor whether it is a major representation of the world.

In the light of the recent killing of an unprecedented number of soldiers in three encounters between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, there is a need to rethink the type of map that is needed to help us understand the current crisis. There is much controversy around groups like the Abu Sayyaf, those the other armed groups (such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front) with which the government has entered agreements. Only the former are the exact target of military operations.

Third, it separates the mainstream MNLF from its so-called "Ultimate Breakaway Group" of the MNLF. The former is headed to its office of the government, while the latter is perceived to be hostile. Fourth, it distinguishes between the regular forces of the MILF (MILF and Abu Sayyaf, on one hand, and the armed bandit groups" and "lawless elements" on the other hand (especially The latter creates a big problem for the police, but the bigger problem is the one posed by these several criminals. How useful are these distinctions? How dynamic are they in the field?

As with all forms of universal references, one will only know how well a particular map works by observing what maps are used.

The most important social network in Mindanao is the kinship group: people locate themselves about all in a map of extended families. Individuals may join the government, or the PNP or the Armed Forces, or—for that matter, the MILF or the MNLF or the Abu Sayyaf, but by doing so, they do not cease to be members of kinship networks. Here, an injury committed against one member is taken as an injury against the whole kin group.

A soldier might imagine a view on delineations of the different Moro groups. Nothing would be more mistaken. It is common knowledge that many of the founding leaders of the Abu Sayyaf were children of MNLF rebels, and that the MNLF and the MILF themselves used to belong to one movement. While there is no hard margin between these groups, there are areas in light or important with the Philippine government, one cannot underestimate the shared goal of a Moro homeland that seeks to be independent but connecting all Moro tribes.

The map that locals see may distinguish clan, tribal, or group associations around important centers from one another. It may show one Muslims from Lanao and Christians from, to present, it will not distinguish between "settlers" and non-settlers. Locals do not usually distinguish between groups at least not in the IPI manner) of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. When such a map is at work, a family will give sanctuary to a rebel for no other reason than because he is a relative. A kin group's map is blind to a stranger's speed.

It separates mainstream Muslim groups from the MILF, and the MILF from the Abu Sayyaf. It may show one Muslim group as friendly to the government, while the latter is perceived to be hostile. Fourth, it distinguishes between the regular forces of the MILF (MILF and Abu Sayyaf, on one hand, and the armed bandit groups" and "lawless elements" on the other hand (especially The latter creates a big problem for the police, but the bigger problem is the one posed by these several criminals. How useful are these distinctions? How dynamic are they in the field?

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Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

The persuasive powers of GSIS

GET REAL

Sedfrey Candelaria-Hontiveros

WHETHER ONE SHOULD ASCRIBE IT TO THE political powers of the Garcias in Cebu, or to the persuasive (intimidating) powers of the very large treasury of GSIS funds, or to the sheer stupidity of some members of the GSIS Board of Trustees (or some combination of the three), it remains inconceivable that 11 (despite two years of joint investigation (amid gross media hoopla) of the GSIS' use of commissions and commissions, the House committee on good government and public accountability has not been halted to come up with an report or bill—and, of course, no more report is forthcoming because the 13th Congress is dead and gone. (2) Greater than two years of (full (20 months), the Office of the Ombudsman still has not come up with any action or recommendation on the report submitted to it by the Commission on Audit (COA) regarding the aforementioned uses of the GSIS.

At the same time, a preliminary injunction issued by the Court of Appeals on Sept. 21, 2005 (or almost two years ago), stopping the Special Audit Team (SAT) of the COA from acting on its findings regarding these GSIS uses, until such time as if the Court of Appeals could rule on the case on the merits. (3) Presumably, the court hasn't finished its review. It hasn't dissolving that the powers of the injunction was Associate Justice Bob John Sundaram, who has since been banished (on) office by the Supreme Court.

So much for the persuasive powers of the GSIS and its seemingly boundless resources. Six counts with persuasion, it has also gone on an intimidation mode by filing a total of three administrative and three criminal cases against the SAT team with the Office of the Ombudsman: one against team supervisor Leonor Bendo, and four against Bendo and the four auditors. The GSIS has also filed a civil case for damages against the SAT in Cebu. (Given the location, and whether one for bribery) contempt against Bendo in the Court of Appeals.

Why can the cases be intimidating? Because, dear readers, the respondents in the cases are or, in their case, as far as defending themselves is concerned. Tellitis, say, the Kanglat financial ng Pilipinas, where the legal fees incurred by an officer and employees of the GSIS are paid out of funds that are set for by the BSP, the COA has no funds allocated for protecting their employees and auditors, who are subjected to legal with. Under these circumstances, where the auditors are cadastre ed by the GSIS and the Office of the Ombudsman, able-nails reports are even issued at all—or to put it differently, it is fairly-sunday that the reports are so extensively studied.

Which is why I salute Bendo and her team, composed of Joel L. Escalona, Rhoda M. Bolo, etc., Mercedes B. Alabanza and Rosalinda Bal vedia, for sticking to one, through thick and thin, bloody time. Bendo is no longer with the Legal and Administration Office. But she was directed last year) of the COA, having been appointed as an auditor handling local government. She has apparently been bypassed by promotion, since a lot of her former colleagues were held higher positions than she does. Take note that she is highly qualified: nineteen CPA, working law in three different colleges (she has no negations by COA since 1), and author of a textbook on criminal law.

But what are the alleged uses of commissions and omissions of the GSIS, for which, ironically, Bendo and her SAT are being punished? The GSIS found them in four ways, including the actual project, involving what the SAT termed a real scenario between the GSIS and Union Bank (owned by the relatives of, you guessed, is Cebu), she ridiculously high commission and benefit packages of GSIS officials (including its board of directors or chairman—the top official of the GSIS received ten years of service with a P12 million lump sum payment and a P50,000 a month lifetime pension), and the cash advances covering discretionary allowances (including, I believe, the cash allowance of the chairman of GSIS president Winston Garcia's cash advances does not involve any receipts, but mere "reimbursement" of expenditures on his part).

The largest and the most costly of the GSIS' largesse to cost officers, as well as to large public contractors (such as PCIB) amounted to P1.644 million in 2006), one particularly growing (at the light of its emergency around) to members. In 2005, it rescued the 13th month allowance (not getting to practitioners), and the year-end bonus (not getting to practitioners) for retirees and widowers) to five years, whom before they were ultimate beneficiaries.

I am still combing the reCord papers, but already the other mandatory permissions. For example, the cash advance Bendo cites was the bid for the reCord papers that and against it had to swindles, given that it was demanded the contract one day before the end of the bidding period, and only a week or less after collecting it on project. Also, the cash advance system to be a disposition basis for government funds approved by the Monetary Board with in three days of getting the contracts. Where government were with the speed of lightning, however.

There there is the puzzle as to why Union Bank should be chosen over Land Bank, which at the time (2004) had more than three times as many branches as Union Bank, and more than few times as many ATM units. With GSIS members all over the Philippines, why was consider a bank with such a small network?

It tends.

Conservatives, optimists, non-expectants and pessimists

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE. EVERY ONE quarterly survey asks respondents if they think that their quality of life or "set of circumstances" over the coming 12 months will get better, get worse, or remain the same.

In the new (mid-June 2003) reported for Monday 39 percent said it would not change. 32 percent said it would get worse and 21 percent believed it would get better. At present, most Filipinos are conservative, almost to many are optimistic, and a few are pessimistic, with respect to their quality of life.

Comparing the picture to a significant fourth quarter 138 percent) then until they didn't know, which was not one of the three choices of answers scored in the question. Each people, who say they have no expectations about their life's trend to the future even after being invited to choose from no less than six of expectations, are the non-expectants.

Non-expectants are more common than pessimists. One can say that, as of now, one in every ten Filipinos, but are conservative, there are optimists, and there are non-expectants. Only one in 5 is pessimistic with respect to their future quality of life.

There are fewer non-expectants among Europeans. The Eurobarometer surveys of 1998-2004 showed that out of every ten Europeans, significantly more than one were pessimistic about their future (the exact ratio was 1:3). Optimists, non-optimists, "one-and-a-half" were pessimists, and only "one half" was a non-expectant.

Thus, one may say that there is less expectant, more optimistic, less pessimistic, and less non-expectant Filipinos than Europeans. Comparisons of Filipinos with Europeans, using by optimistic and pessimistic about Filipinos are, unbalanced as to "set" terms, more optimistic than Europeans.

The dominance of optimism over pessimism is quite common in Social Weather Stations (SWS) conducted surveys from 1983 to the present. SWS has adopted the term Gap for "values of Net Optimism" (Optimism from + 1 to + 9); the maximum range.

SWS said inconsistent describe as High net optimism values from +20 to +29—which included the June 2003 value of +22 (currently recorded). Very High will be for net optimism values of + 30 and up; these have occurred in 5 percent of all surveys so far.

Medium so far net values of + 1 to + 9. Low is for -9 to 0. Very Low is for -10 or worse, which happened in 4 percent of all surveys.

Looking towards the past. Every SWS quarterly survey also asks respondents if they think that their quality of life now compared to 12 months ago (or earlier: lower, because some, or remained the same.

The June 2003 survey found 46 percent saying there was no change in their quality of life, 34 percent saying it became worse, and only 21 percent saying it became better. These are the new trends, the losers, and the gainers respectively shortly anyone said (don't know what comparing the present to the past.

Thinking the net gainers that losers has been very rare; it only happened twice in 84 national surveys since 1983. As a result, SWS has adopted the term Very High for a net balance score of + 10 or more, which happened only once, and High for a net balance score of + 1 to +9, which also happened once.

SWS will use the term Fair for net scores of 0 to -9. The term Mediocre is for net scores of -10 to -19 including the June 2003 Net balance finding of -12. Poor is for -20 to -29, and very bad for -30 or worse. Using these categories, 71 previous all past survey readings were Bad, 27 previous were Mediocre, 26 percent were Low, and 11 percent were Very Low.

Here do remain from the past number two to

(To write to Luis Quimot for the computations, and to Ilocos Mangahas for the term "non-expectant"; errors are mine.) Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or thelist-mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

Dear God

ITS BEEN RAINING SINCE MANILA ARCHBISHOP GAUDENCIO Cardinal Rosales instructed the Catholic faithful to pray for rains to avert a water crisis. "Unang Sinipsip Ni Pandakan Pontanes " (Dinigayuma Prayer to Request for Rain) is also the appeal to heaven to relief.

The rainy days have brought the usual inconveniences—floods, traffic jams, getting wet. But we asked for rain, didn't we? Prayers said we.

Or texts in some instances. The looming water crisis doesn't sound so terrifying anymore, but still "you shall receive."

Good there be no "drain injuries" in response for a belated? A prayer to end the drought, to the love lives of single women likewise? A prayer modification so the prayer for rain in due in a matter of days, not several more single, available, marrying men?

Being single never really bothered me. Until now.

I wrote this a few days before my 30th birthday. Somehow, the pressure of personal deadlines are more felt: to have a boyfriend, to get married, to have a house of my own.

At first, when I am single, asked: it's pray to God for "The One." I said: not I do. As Mama Mathew I go to bed, "Where I make up in the morning. On my way to work. When my many get married. When I first have sex on my nighties.

I even pray to God for a boyfriend. I think how old am I should still God what I really want. God already knows what we desires, of course, but it's also nice to hear it straight from one's heart. And so, I make my requirements in my prayer. I want: Guy for life as he kisses, good looking, music, 6'0" to 5'11" tall. Ironic's master (God's dude) or that I want more. Guy who is God-fearing, God-loving, Someone who's humble and humble. Someone who has goals, better than ambitious.

Early this year, I actually thought God had answered my prayers. A common friend introduced us, a "set up" of sorts and, we didn't take the bench away at first sight. He wasn't drop-dead gorgeous, but he had a nice body, decent. And a personality nice mate that had a life and interior that I found comforting.

Then came a few dinners. A couple of movies. An exchange of gifts. Some phone calls and text messages.

He was 5'6", funny, smart, humble. From our conversations, he seemed to be God-loving and he knew a lot of concerns, admirable qualities for life. And he wasn't ambitious.

There were little literacies here and there. Little hints that he likewise (or so I thought).

I was starting to be comfortable with him. I began entertaining the thought that he could be my first boyfriend. I started dropping hints, too, that I liked him.

But somewhere along the way, in between a chocolate mousse we shared and a movie, I found out that he had text someone and she became his girlfriend.

I wanted to cry. I confessed. I didn't get it. Didn't he just ask me out to dinner? Wasn't it a date?

To him, it wasn't. To him, it was what friends normally did. He told me he thought I understood that he only wanted to be friends with me.

That was our one-month-ago. I still feel some pain, partly because I felt I should have stayed and partly because I was almost in love with him.

I'm expressing mostly all my requirements. He failed the boyfriend part), there were other little things about him that expressed my heart: his sideburns, glasses with a lopsided grin, the way he talked, the way he walked, the way he smelled, the way he smiled, the way with a tone of voice and spirit, and his hand-some build that I figured could stand out from the rest.

After he broke my heart, I considered giving up on finding "The One."

I thought, maybe I wasn't meant to live a guilt-free, a-with-a-romantic. Wasn't meant to have my own family or my own home.

But inexplicably, I still can't help looking up to heaven and saying a prayer that one day soon, I will meet someone whom I'll love, and who'll love me back.

And I send you thanks.

Marjhon Chiuseng-Atacador is the one.

Manuel Luis, 26, works for a major newspaper.

Young Blood

Nonna Leon

"We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

'Read With Me'

Commentary

Butch Hernandez

grant for PESRC-02 was in one week, in a manner of speaking. Bas-Saver serve a few blanks that saved, of us to the Education Center on Edge Bayan, some president, and a new team of banks executives to meet with Dr. Fe Arenas, PESRC-02 principal.

SEMC would have no shortage of volunteers from its own ranks. In fact, nominations came unsolicited from the faculty and staff, and many of whom had left their time and effort to each worthy endeavors in former listings.

But helping Grade 1 pupils learn to read could be daunting. A grade-school teacher is trained for this, but how about a group volunteer who may or may not have had some formal elementary education background?

The answer came from Dr. Evelyn "Eve" Ricafranca, national coordinator of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's Mentoring the Mentors, and Dr. Sol Francisco, an expert in reading from the UP College of Education. Their position: first that the required key to learning in these texts primarily was the teacher. A pre-created man-time level revision that when should highlight the teacher's instructional leadership while fostering a strong working relationship with the learners. Second, that the FPRRD Grade 1 teachers to ensure that the Read With Me program was properly implemented.

According to Sol, the Read With Me program uses the oral and sound first-precept approach for beginning readers. This approach was pioneered in the '50s by the late Dr. Bonifacio Sibayan of the UP College of Education.

Without being too technical about it, the four

Butch Hernandez is the executive director of Peace Advocates for Worldwide People Power and is a member of Task Force 17-71. He can be reached at butch_her-nandez@gmail.com.

Urban living

Aida Hercenzade E. Salendab

I AM A CITY DRONE FOR SURE!

Today, I woke up hoping there's nothing to do. My head hurts. Last night, the fan broke down and it was 21 degrees Celsius. I barely slept around 4:00.

It's ironic that a heat wave now sweeps the entire when it should be raining hard. It's officially the "9th Season" but instead of typhoons, the headlines yesterday told of a looming water crisis in the face of the less rainfall these past months.

My house from high school that is being repossessed was caused by successive air pollution. The rains received on the east there, now it has large out of the warehouses into real world. In fact, it has developed into a kind of moral issue.

Nobody dismisses it anymore as something trivial, especially in public television. To be sure, politicians and everyone from academicians to the promotion of pollution and vehicle emissions. But will the chronic be matched with political will?

Here, sadly what we witness most is mere lip service. Among the catalogue of "concerned" states, we signed the Kyoto Protocol and the Montreal Protocol. The ban of 15,000 which calls for emission tests for vehicles and the phasing out of two-stroke engines, among others. But we don't see or feel the most important aspect of the law—its implementation.

Smoke-belching vehicles, for instance, still ejected enough black smoke that can be managed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority smugly look on. Well, it's either the MMDA operatives are ignorant of the law's existence or the government is simply not serious about the law's intent. Whatever, one thing is clear: there, if not all, of the motorists misled policies the government has adopted have so far been ineffective in the fight against pollution. Must be called leaders seem so eager to demonstrate they're doing something about environmental degradation, yet so careless about nullifying powerful political and economic interests.

Then, I pay the price for the lacks of urban life—I breathe smoke-filled air. I live in a high-density area, where I have to walk on trash-packed grounds, and I endure noise pollution in traffic-congested roads, yet to mention the health risks that come with the suddenly-changing temperature.

Even now, in bed, I can hear a car alarm screaming. I can smell part of the smog coming from the busy street four metres below my balcony. I, 30 plus, I'm going back to sleep.

Aida Hercenzade E. Salendab, 29, is a 4th year BS Political Science student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She swears this piece when Cassiopeia dropped up for rain.

Breaking the Isafp code

Between Deadlines

HE CAN'T HELP HIMSELF STEMMED JOSE III. Writes he has already declared a personal interim ban on his office's access to bring the country to the realm of progressive unicameral parliamentary states. It seems, however, that he can't keep himself from making a pitch for Charter change every time when he speaks of non-political issues such as global warming.

"I like to be full-searching the planning of a billion trees, as well as the Congress. It is why we passed by the House of Representatives three times the the Senate won't allow to pass it," Dr. Gloria said in a recent news forum. His remarks, of course, underscored his long-standing pitch for Charter change as a fundamental prerequisite to be better in the Philippines.

They also prompted our reporters on the sidelines of the forum to quip that Dr. Gloria is, yet again, thus making a pitch for her pet minister-designate for Charter change, Raul Lambino.

This led Noel Sibulan, the House deputy secretary-general for information and one of the Speaker's closest aides, to explain away his boss: "It is subliminal," he said. S. Bordadora

* * *

AFTER THE MATCH, THE WORDS. The Filipino bravery who beat Team Mexico in last Sunday's Davis Cup tie in Cebu City was compared with saving the mantle of victory; they were also burdened by the same Oling thing.

Right-end Jovi Ark watches glistened on the wrists of Team A1 Bagunas, Richmond Berdugo, JJ Gerero and Bel "Boom Boom" Bautista when they arrived early Wednesday morning.

The bulging watches caught the attention of the media.

The watches, Gerero said, were gifts from hosting legend Dr. Lucio Bayo, the owner of Golden Bay Promotions, the outfit that organized the World Cup. Each was reportedly worth $3,000.

Asked about the accessory, Bautista, the only Filipino Baller to lose in the six fights said, on account of a tennis, said: "Michigan sya eh ... Kaya sya nanalo sa Michigan." S. Bordadora

* * *

YOU BATTLE SCHOLE. After the 33rd years of

(To write to Jose Ma. Montelibano, Jr. at jmontelibano@yahoo.com.)

"Sinclair" and "Sin Rafa." F. Zamora

* * *

LAND FOR ALL, HYDROTRAX INCLUDED. The new defense, apparently, is still a good offense. Defending his acceptance of a "fantastic" gift that included a Nissan Urban Estate, the alleged "patron" of the worst Philippine archipelago, lawyer and ex-politician Bonifacio Alaska returned to attacking his critics. He took aim, in particular, at his old nemesis, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, who had described the new plunder case Tallano lodged against deposed President Joseph Estrada as a "tall order that will not sell."

Alaska's response to the comment: "These people who are now coming out-nuisance, are do not graduate these people from the University of the Philippines anymore. That's why. I'm surprised why they graduated from UP but Ateneo, eh?"

Ateneo de Davao, that is. Alaska — also a UP law graduate, and "They should study first the documents and a talent time to study the documents."

The intrepid lawyer rendered that he will fight the Tallano case until "hell freezes over," so all poor Filipinos would have a piece of land as own. By the argument interesting him, he made a mistake. "I mean, I'm not a land grabber. I'm a grabber of land. Until my interest this problem is resolved, hindi ako aalis ..."

He was less like other politicians who make promises only to break them later he added. J. Uy

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Aug. 16, 1993 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

"Imperial Manila is a jungle where only the fittest survive, quote by," the President, who swam Jokes! six and a half pumps, converted the visitors of this lady to New York Bronzilla Hotels, then wrestling in New York City! Bulu sito, a city style and a half, had the same done to us the President, Sito, Marcos, of course, was implying that Gov Again has been helping herself to her chosen race-drive outlets in the Palace museum.

"It is in El Nido where I have my roots. I'm not that poor," the President laughed but would not extend her invitation. The War of the Waters has begun on the wrong foot.

Concealed casualty of war

THE ECONOMY COALITION is deeply concerned with the escalating conflict in Basilan and Sulu and with its adverse social and psychological impact on local communities. Moreover, we are acutely concerned about the conflict's concealed casualty: the environment.

From various media accounts, we have come to know the painful social impact of the heightened armed offensive: dozens of soldiers and rebels killed, hundreds of residents displaced, evacuation centers established, casualties reported. Behind the statistics are the often-ignored psychological effects of the violence on combatants and their families as well as on communities members, most especially the children, caught in the crossfire.

We also see the environment being lowered and damaged in the carnage. Bullets, grenades, bombs, mortars and other war tools obliterate wildlife, forests cast to holocaust and poison the air, water and soil with toxic chemicals. The damage to the environment is very costly and can persist for generations.

We deplore all forms of violence that carry deadly and engenerate toxic waste, facts not contained in the statistics and the sensationalist media reports. We are concerned human and financial resources from conservation and biodiversity purposes—such as building classrooms, producing instructional materials and increasing teachers' salaries, preventing primary health care, advancing low-cost wastewater management and creating sustainable jobs and livelihood.

We, the color of the people and the environment, we call upon the government to stop the offensive. We support the call, made by rich and poor groups, for the cessation of violence in southern Philippines and we appeal to the warring parties to opt for diplomacy and negotiation, and to thus embrace in a sense of addressing disputes.

—PERRY OXIDO,
chair, Eco-Waste Coalition,
Unit 12E, Eagle Court,
26 Retablado St., Quezon City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Lafayette strictly observes RP laws

RAY A. GAUFFORD asked: "What is GMA going to do with Lafayette?" ("Ghosts threaten to Return," Inquirer, 8/11/07.)

Let me remind him that Lafayette must abide strictly with the environmental requirements of the Philippine Environmental Council. The complete terms adhered to all the requirements and we have received waiver approval from.

It has also financially helped Filipinos during natural calamities and continues to assist Filipinos in many ways—by providing financial support and jobs.

—CENON LOBRIN,
RO Box 132 Ayalaone QM,
Australia

Filipinos need man of action

I THINK RAMON TULFO HAS a point there about Sen. Richard Gordon being very much qualified to be the country's president. ("Two Finger about Dirk Indeed," Inquirer, 8/9/07).

Where the Americans left Subic and Clark, my friends and I, now graduates from UP, were inspired by what he did for the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and by how he pushed his countrymates to invest in their own. Quite a departure from typical "Pinoy" mentality over the post-US bases years.

I believe the man is a "no-nonsense" and are rarest conservatives who can kick off as an executive.

—GRACE REYES,
gbreyes@gmail.com

Let's have more of angry Mayor Lim

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MAL Cruz for (his) piece of good news: If that is what happens when Tilany Harry! gets angry, the more I want him to get angry. (Inquirer, 8/13/07)

I want Mayor Alfredo Lim to get really angry in Divisoria, Tandang Sora, Luna, Recto, Magsaysay, etc. In those parts of Manila, anywhere at its worst. Wake up running Asian Joe or Tondo. Is anyone there's no more live here in Tondo—illegal

sidewalk and road vendors, unruly pedicab drivers, double parking, illegal "permanent" structures, squatters, not to mention the undocumented Chinese, etc.

Mayor Lim, you're the only one who knows get angry and do his duty—something few and order.

Ana Lim: making a wish that it were so impossible! I hope I am not.

—BERNARD ROLANCO,
b_rolanco@yahoo.com

On squatters' right to vote

THE HERD TO MAL'A: OLIZA "DON'T make Tony Harry angry." (Inquirer, 8/13/07)

It is about time we amended our election laws to make it mandatory only for legitimate residents of local electoral districts are given the right to vote for their local officials: squatters may vote only for national officials.

This way local officials will stop coddling them.

—J.D.V. LLORETE,
(redwriter)@yahoo.com

P2B for veterans still up in the air

WITH PRIME COMMODITIES COSTING TWICE as much as they did in 2002, as few months ago, it is high time Congress increased the old age pension of World War II veterans from P5,000 to P10,000 per month. Only the state's non-contributory members with the meager amount though it was hardly enough to cover the exorbitant cost of our mainstream medicines.

We are, therefore, very glad to learn in the Senate that young and dynamic Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, a former Navy lieutenant, who is concerned with the welfare of his comrades-in-arms. The law fell he filed in the Senate seeks to increase the basic pay and allowances of AFP's rank and file. (Inquirer, 7/31/07)

We also commend him for the inclusion of P40-billion Peso E-veterans a long overdue. Sec. 7, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that, "The State will provide immediate and adequate care, benefits and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns and their surviving spouses and orphans." We do express that the 14th Congress will give life to this constitutional provision before we, who are in the twilight years of our lives, close our eyes and travel to that "undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns."

We, World War II veterans whom number is dimming, would like to also request the good senator to speak for the funding of RA 7696 which, under Sec. 10, provides that "To effect the purpose of this Act shall be included in the annual general appropriations of the Department of National Defense and such funds required for the initial implementation of benefits allowed or upgraded under this Act shall be taken from the available earnings and funds of the National Government."

President Macapagal-Arroyo in her speech during the Araw ng Kagitingan commemorations, which she led on April 2006 and 2006 at Mt. Samat, Bataan, promised to release a total of P2 billion to pay for the administrative disability of veterans, which has accumulated to more than P50 billion since Na 6948 was enacted on April 5, 1990. The law entitles every veteran and his spouse, upon reaching the age of 75 years P1,500 and P500, respectively, per month.

It seems that the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office has said area are received a single centavo of the P2 billion. We are already fed up and broken promises.

—EDMUNDO O. SEVILLA, JR.,
Secretary-Federation of the Philippines,
Camarines Norte Veterans Elderly Regional S.,
20/11, Pimentel St.,
Daet, Camarines Norte

Unforgettable moment with Magsaysay awardee

I WILL FOREVER CHERISH THAT SINGLE moment I had in the past with former Senator President Jovito Salonga.

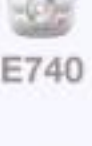
I write this as a result of congratulating him for being chosen this year's Magsaysay awardee for government Service. This case said prerogatives title, which is given only to the most deserving individual, is equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

The year was 1988. The occasion, my graduation from the PEC Institute of Law. During the bowling ceremonies when presided over graduating rites as the PEC graduate-taught. Senator Jovito Salonga, taking a glance at my father who was behind me, asked: "Your father, Sudarisno?"

I answered proudly: "Yes, sir."

At my father was joining Jovito Salonga in playing the bowl ball, I silently broke into tears at the thought of having achieved my dream to be a lawyer and of the "personalized" attention given to my smiling beloved dean and role model not only as my but also to my loving father, who was himself many years.

—GUILLERMO R. NOLAS,
201 Landcon Village,
Mandaue Avenue, Quezon City



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Old farming method still widely used in Samar

By Vicente S. Labao
Tacloban City

DESPITE GREAT ADVANCES IN agriculture, many farmers in Samar still use a crude farming method resulting in poor rice yield and low income.

Leo Cañeda, regional executive director of the Department of Agriculture, said he was surprised to learn that farmers in Northern Samar, particularly those in the rice-producing towns of Catubig and Las Navas, still rely on the "payatan" system of farming.

"I was astonished ... when I learned that the payatan system, which is already history, especially in Leyte, is still being practiced there," he added.

Under the payatan method, a farmer would line up and guide a group of carabaos (water buffalos) in trampling a rice plot until the soil becomes soggy and ready for planting rice seedlings. Before that, the field is first soaked in rainwater or water flowing from a nearby watershed to soften the soil for normal trampling.

This method, however, is laborious and results in very low rice yield compared to the harvests from irrigated rice fields. Nonetheless, payatan remains widely practiced by farmers in the three provinces on Samar Island.

"While the payatan system still widely used ... something has got to be done to turn the situation around," said Cañeda.

The opening two-weeks ago of an agricultural research facility in Binanguan township, Catubig will hopefully turn farmers away from the payatan practice, said Cañeda.

The research facility, which was rehabilitated at a cost of P5.3 million, is a project of the Help for Catubig Agricultural Advancement Project (HCAAP).

HCAAP is a government road development project funded through a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. It was started in June 2002 and is expected to be completed in July 2009.

With funding of over P2.4 billion, the HCAAP covers more than 78 barangays of the municipalities of Las Navas and Catubig in the so-called Catubig Valley.

The project is being implemented by the DA, National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Health, and the local governments of Northern Samar, Catubig and Las Navas.

HCAAP seeks to increase farm production in Northern Samar through the putting up of irrigation facilities, flood protection and extension of road network. It also aims to increase the farmers' earnings by developing agricultural support services and irrigation; enhance public health through sanitation/basic control; and provide basic social services in the covered villages.

Irrigation and drainage projects totaling P864.39 million are now being implemented in the HCAAP area through the NIA, according to a report from the National Economic and Development Authority in Eastern Visayas (Neda-8).

As for farm support services, Cañeda said the DA has been allocated P12 million for the rehabilitation of the farmers' training facility and for the establishments of pilot demonstration farms in Catubig and Las Navas to "to showcase the latest breakthroughs especially on rice farming technologies."

HCAAP envisions that upon completion of the project, a total of 9,000 hectares should have been irrigated with 80 to 90 percent of the farmers adopting the latest technologies especially in rice farming, Cañeda said.

With HCAAP, Samar farmers would be assured of payoyot and no longer be constrained with just producing 32 cavans of palay per hectare.

Since the introduction of the project, Cañeda said a number of rice farmers on Samar Island have increased their yield to 80 cavans per hectare. DA hopes this will increase to 70 to 80 cavans per hectare upon the completion of the project in 2009.

"This is why we are very keen on implementing our hybrid rice commercialization project in that part of the province, and also we are keen on introducing at least for now the adoption of certified seeds so that we can increase the yield of our farmers there," he said.

As a poverty alleviation project, HCAAP could help the country in attaining its commitments to the United Nations' millennium development goals to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, serve infrastructure facilities, and provide safe water supply and basic sanitation, among others, by 2015.

PHOTO shows a payatan farmer in Catubig, Northern Samar. STORY ILLUSTRATION PHOTO

Ilonggo fashion, poetry at the Antillan House

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

SASHAYING TO THE LIVE RENDITIONS OF OLD ILONGGO favorites like Pinalangga (Beloved) and the more current Hinduhuman (Remembrance), models made their entrance up the burnished narra stairs, glided through antique rooms, and pirouetted before an audience seated atelier-style on a balmy evening at the Sanson y Montinola Antillan House in E. Lopez Street, Jaro District, Iloilo City.

The Antillan House itself, one of the very few left intact in the country, was like a debutante dressed for a grand ball—its trademark vitasi rooftop carved doors were restored and repainted, shuttered windows were cleaned, and the exterior was painted a more cheerful version and painstaking care on the brick foundations were spruced.

It was not only because the Iloilo Heritage Gala was held at the Antillan House in May that Greg Sanson, the owner, decided to glam up his family's turn-of-the-century ancestral home but also because heritage conscious Ilonggos have since must revved up the advocacy machine calling for the preservation of Iloilo City's heritage houses and buildings.

The Gala was but one of the activities of the 15 members that the Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Conservation Council (ICCHCC) spearheaded during the celebration of the National Heritage Month in May.

The ICCHCC has architect Antonio Bengzon as chair representing the private sector while Noel Hechanova, its director, represents the government.

"We must promote responsible appreciation of our culture. To preserve, we have to strive and beyond that, make people conscious of our heritage," Ramón Siapno, National Heritage Festival director, had said.

For their "interesting art of staging presentations and memorabilia," the Iloilo City government recently awarded plaques of appreciation to the owners or managers of the following heritage buildings: Simeon P. Montinola ancestral House, Tañon Ledesma Residence, Casa Mariquit of the Lopezes, Nelly Garden, Montinola Residence, Morgan Luis Residence of former Sen. Nikki Coseteng, and the Bank of Commercial Banking Corp. in J.M. Basa Street.

THE NEWLY restored Antillan House of the Sanson-Montinola family lies resplendent at Jaro Diversoreading in downtown Iloilo City. ARIES PALO

Fashion, music, poetry

Soon after cocktails, the guests numbering about a hundred, with some dressed in formal wear, entered the Antillan House for a night of Ilonggo fashion, music and poetry—effectively setting an ambiance of old-money appreciation for things uniquely Ilonggo.

The fashion show (cophilled by Ilonggo designers Jun Dionisio, Bo Devora, Aprilvic Borja-Kagao and Juki Peñalosa of the Designers Guild of Iloilo started with two series from the University of San Agustin Little Theater clothrowing mannequins from "Kawayan," a poem by eminent Ilonggo writer and poet Magdalena Jalandoni.

Tinging (Velvet), a young vocal ensemble formed to support BOSS under the direction ship of Ensemble Hispania was the sound for young designer Bee Fronda's collection with their rendition of the upbeat but distinctly Hiligaynon performance of Benny Cuarillos's Erehas!

Though the fashion show's motif was bamboo, avant garde bamboo, as the designers' collection had models wearing mostly billowy black or gold dresses and blouses "as inspired by dark clouds, leaves and wind" for "dark romances" with bamboo and pieces of bamboo on the models as accessories.

Apropos with Bo Devora whose collection was made distinctive by a rugged, earthy look with tiny bamboo pieces forming squares and rectangles in his creations as "inspired by windows" or with bamboo acting as embellishments on what could have been run-of-the-mill creations.

Bamboo gown, anyone?

Women designers Angeline Borja-Fugoso and Juki Peñalosa bowed more to the bamboo fashion motif as they pleasantly surprised the audience with their ingenuity and innovation with bamboo and indigenous fabric.

Peñalosa redefined the Philippine muse by marrying indigenous fabric such as inabal and raffia with contemporary designs with bamboo bits and pieces incorporated into either the headwork of the gowns or into the duwats.

Borja-Kagao had a model wear a bamboo suede of gossamer-daintily arranged bamboo and tree saves a cocktail dress with bamboo "tapestry."

And as if that wasn't remarkable enough, another model came in wearing a skirt made of curled bamboo for that billowy look which you never thought was possible with such a hard material as bamboo.

Apropos with billowed a model wearing a Borja-Kagao ball gown with bamboo shavings as embellishments on the gown itself, complemented by an intricate but elegant hairpiece made of bamboo shavings too.

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Across the NATION

Visayas, Mindanao seen rice sources

MAGSAYSAY, DAVAO del Sur—The Department of Agriculture (DA) has turned to farmers in the Visayas and Mindanao to cushion the impact of the drought and floods that had wreaked havoc on farms in Luzon.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said Thursday that unless the government moved quickly there would be a shortage of rice because of the dry spell and flooding in some areas of the country.

Assistant Secretary Dan Lantican disclosed that the dry spell in Luzon would translate to a shortfall of about 200,000 metric tons of palay.

Larger shortage

The DA also disclosed that [said the dry spell] lingered longer, the shortfall could increase up to nine million metric tons.

Yap said only early planting among Visayan and Mindanao farmers could help address the impending shortfall.

"We need to help the farmers in Luzon that's why I am now in Mindanao," he said during Thursday's launching of the "Quick Turnaround" RFSC program here.

Under the program, farmers are encouraged to plant commercially aimed at the normal planting season so they could also harvest earlier.

Early birds

Yap said [increasing early-would] ensure continuous production and ample supply of the grain.

He said the DA will assist farmers in addressing the potentials of disease affecting their rice fields because of the early planting.

He said one of these is by encouraging them to use "hybrid rice (RCH) varieties, which the DA would supply.

He said aside from giving out the seeds, the DA would also help farmers in the marketing aspect.

Yap said [farmers should plant by Sept. 15 to harvest could take place in December.

Farmers here usually plant in October.

Added income

He said aside from ensuring that there would be enough rice supply, early planting would also help farmers increase their income.

Nicasio Miel, provincial agriculturist, admitted that farmers of this town were hesitant about joining the QFR program thinking that it would be difficult for them to shift to a new schedule from their usual planting season.

But after Yap held a dialogue with them, Miel said the farmers understood why early planting was important.

New facility

In Malitapan in Zamboanga province, Yap said he was appalled after discovering the yield of corn farmers with the Imanpatron Thursday of the P27-million post harvest facility funded by the government.

"Without this facility, we could hardly encourage our corn farmers to produce more. Who would we produce more. Who would we produce more. Who would we

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2007

NEWS

OUTSTANDING. Inquirer reporter Jocelyn Uy receives the award for outstanding reporter from Chief Justice Reynato Puno given yearly by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Inquirer reporters, photog bag awards

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER bested YESTERDAY rosa rosa reporters in the 4th Lasallian Scholastic Awards, presented by the De La Salle University-Manila to honor "imperative reportage" on issues concerning the youth and education sectors.

The story, "Low grad gives new meaning to 'basta,'" by Inquirer.net reporter-researcher Tonette Orejas, received the outstanding feature award while the photograph, "Life in the evacuation" by Inquirer photographer Edwin Bacasmas, clinched the outstanding photograph award.

The same time group, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, also picked Inquirer reporter Jocelyn Uy as its outstanding reporter for 2007 during the organization's 9th founding anniversary (day at Camp Crame yesterday.

Orejas' story was about the life of Pedro Guerre, the first child born graduate. The latest Pedro Guerre in the front of depict poverty and the disastrous effects on the educational system brought by Mr. Pandora's term between 1991.

Bacasmas' photo showed children who lived in an evacuation center in Rizal making a book by the flicker of a gas lamp.

Orejas and Bacasmas each received a plaque (trophy sculpted by Ramon Orlina and P15,000.

For capturing (the year's theme of "for the freedom(s) many," GMA-7 reporter Kara Lloyd's "Mga Batang Rizal: Discovered children?" was hailed as the outstanding feature article in television.

Nestor Cuartero of the Manila Bulletin bested six finalists for his story, "A bridge for kids," and was chosen the outstanding feature on DZSU-90 radio.

The La Salliance's "The pinguinos plague" got noted the outstanding feature award for a television program.

Entries from five honorees correspondents and columnists became finalists in the outstanding feature category. These were: "Sandoy by day teaches by night" by Julie Alipala, Tagalanar youth-lover Pinoy family values" by Yolanda Sobeck-Fuentes, "Teachers and students" by Antonio Fuentes, "Bagay education" by Randy David and "The Menagerie of Muslims" by Inquirer/Villalon.

Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, DLSU-Manila president, described all returning entries, selected from more than 300 works as "moving, inspiring and real."

The Lasallian Scholastic Awards also espouse audiovisual literature to help the public increase its awareness of youth and education issues, said Dr. Consuelo Quebengco, DLSU-Manila chancellor. Brother Gabriel Javier

THE BEST. Inquirer Central Luzon correspondent Rosette Obaja holds trophy for best feature story he got during the 2007 Lasallian Scholastic Awards at The Peninsula in Makati.

Detained general sets conditions for amnesty

By Christine F. Figueroa

AN ARMY OFFICER DETAINED FOR allegedly plotting to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo on February 2006 may consider amnesty, but only after issues like the "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal had been resolved.

Interviewed through his lawyer, Atty. Gus Dindo Lanuza, the "all-encompassing amnesty" floated by Speaker Jose de Venecia should be a must part of a broader effort to address "deep-seated problems."

A former commander of the elite Scout Rangers, Lim said these problems included Mr. Ignacio's alleged cheating in the 2004 presidential election, the alleged involvement of some military officials in pull-outs, and the extrajudicial killings.

"Amnesty won't mean anything if we don't get to the bottom of these problems," he told the Inquirer. "If the government is serious about it, it should make an agent of the solution to these deep-seated problems."

Lim is under court-martial for involvement in the coup plot—an allegation he has consistently denied. He is being held at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, with Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, ex-Army Western commander.

'Bigger peace process'

For Miranda, there should first be an examination of "what this amnesty is all about."

"The discussion should focus on a type of amnesty occurring in the context of a bigger peace process," he said through Lim's lawyer, Ricardo Sicobalcon.

Miranda delivered in January 2006 a "unbridled tirade" (speech on the political situation, and is also under court-martial for his involvement in the supposed plot. He had earlier been included in the military and police officials gathered to sing Arroyo.

According to Miranda, issues like the "Hello Garci" scandal and the extrajudicial killings are helping trigger the coup attempt officers and soldiers—an attitude, he said, that did not necessarily translate to a coup plot.

Lim said the allegation that some top Armed Forces officials were involved in election manipulation in 2004 had helped create the impression that the military as an institution was "involved in a source of pride."

"However, that it's been humiliated," he said.

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Rose G. Dipasupil

MetroBriefs

Pasig rerouting scheme

THE PASIG government will test public traffic patterns in the streets leading to the city's public market as part of the rerouting scheme to be implemented starting Aug. 20 to decongest the area. Under the scheme, streets around the public market's perimeter will be closed to motorized traffic. Public transport operators will be directed to use alternate routes according to their destinations. Tricycles coming from J. Vargas Avenue going to the public market must make a right turn to Market Ave. Pinag-City Traffic and Parking Management Office Chief Pedro Basit Magbiro said he said the new routes were assigned after consultations with the transportation sector and a study made by the city government. —Kristine L. Alave

Pace anniversary Mass

THE ARCHBISHOP of Manila, Archbishop Cardinal Rosales, will head the Eucharistic celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the San Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco, Manila and the feast of its patron, Our Lord of the Holy Sepulchre, at 7 a.m. tomorrow. Concelebrants are Paco parish priest Msgr. Domingo A. Cirilos Jr., assistant parish priest Fr. Wilfredo C. Talavera, Fr. Celso R. Ancheta, Fr. Eduardo Dino, Fr. Macario Sumbilo, Fr. Luke Mondejar and Fr. Amir Jesus D. Dipuin with Rev. Salvatore Pulse Jr. assistant rector.

Pateros declares state of calamity

Minor landslide in San Mateo town

By Julie M. Aurelio, Kristine L. Alave and Allison W. Lopez

THE TOWN OF PATEROS HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER A STATE OF calamity as six of its 10 barangays have remained flooded since Aug. 8 when typhoon "Chedeng" hit the country.

Town Mayor Lanie Medina issued the order yesterday when another typhoon, "Egay," brought more rains to Metro Manila.

"Egay" dumped heavy rains in Metro Manila and surrounding towns since Wednesday, leading to massive flooding and forcing authorities to suspend classes and close government offices.

"There are no more floods on the main streets, but water remains at knee-level inside houses," Medina told the reporters.

Medina ordered barangay captains to use the calamity fund in the barangay budget for contingency expenses.

Hardest hit by floodwaters was Barangay Sta. Ana which is near a creek. The other affected barangays are Martires, Aguho, San Roque, Sto. Rosario-Silangan and Sto. Rosario-Kanluran.

A disaster response team was created to identify evacuation sites. Although residents have yet to be evacuated to higher ground, Medina said they were eyeing barangay halls, daycare centers and public schools as temporary shelters. "Thankfully, there was no reported outbreak of diseases," he added.

In nearby Taguig City, floodwaters at least six-feet levels were reported in Barangays Tuktukan, Sto. Ana, Calzada Tipas, Napindan, Ibayong, Wawa, Lower Bicutan, Ususan I, and North Daang Hari.

Meanwhile, the Pasay City Rescue unit reported chest high floodwaters as of 3 p.m. yesterday in Barangays 180, 183, 177 and 183 in Maricaban.

Villamor Airbase, where floodwaters reportedly reached waist level, was also slowly inundated.

In Muntinlupa City, slight flooding was reported in Sitio Matagpeng and San Jose Initial in Barangay Alabang and Midland Subdivision in Barangay Cupang along the South Luzon Expressway. Other flooded areas were Lakeview 2 in Barangay Putatan and Regalia Court passed in Barangay Tunasan.

Yesterday afternoon, officials of San Mateo town in Rizal province evacuated 12 families in Barangay Silangan because of a minor landslide. No casualties were reported as the incident. The families were brought to an abandoned house 150 meters from the affected area.

Local officials were also monitoring the towns of Cainta, Taytay, Binangonan and Teresa, also in Rizal, for flashfloods. The towns are close to the San Mateo River.

In Mandaluyong City, Mayor Benhur Abalos asked the Metro Manila Development Authority to remove trash clogging ditches and creeks. Cleanup efforts were concentrated on the perennially flooded Shaw Blvd. area of City Hall.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando blamed the garbage for the clogged drainage that allowed floodwaters to rise quickly.

Manila city engineer Armand Andres said Metro residents should stop littering and dumping crowns with garbage if they wanted to stop the flooding.

The Supreme Court, in a ruling the other day, said local government units were responsible for flood control as part of the basic services they should provide to constituents.

Andres admitted that LGUs, through their flood-control units, were duty-bound to check regularly drainage systems, but he said the cleaning of sewers and pumping stations was the job of the MMDA.

The city engineer said the current dismantling of an informal settlers' community in Quiapo made only a "small dent" in the bigger problem of creekside squatters.

FLIPPING AND SLIDING
Children of Sitio Ararao in Maurilia Village, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City find simple joy sliding down this street each time there are rains. On rain-less days, the small community gets relieved water for their everyday needs. Ararao is not serviced by conventional water lines and relies on water delivery trucks for its daily needs.

Government Warning:
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Noli, wife face bigamy, falsification of documents raps

By Jeannemarie I. Andrade and Cynthia D. Balana

THEY LAST SAW THEIR SON her boarding a tricycle to leave Calamba, Laguna in 1975.

Twenty-eight years later, brothers Jhorwend Orduna and Arjenie Omar Shintani filed several charges against the woman on the tricycle, including bigamy in the Quezon City regional trial court on Thursday.

Their mother is now the wife of Vice President Noli de Castro, although the respondent in the case.

Asked to comment on the charges, De Castro said yesterday there were political motivations.

Jhorwend, now 34, said the brothers they would not have gone to court if Arlene Shintani de Castro acknowledged they were her sons. "I was 6-years-old and my brother was five when my mother left us. That was my last memory of her and she never looked back," he said.

Jhorwend said he and his brothers went to ABS-CBN where Arlene was then broadcast executive, to talk to her after seeing her name on television. They were allegedly prevented from seeing her by Arlene's brothers, Allan, who reportedly threatened to hurt them if they revealed their relationship to Arlene.

"We tried to reach her for several years after that but she refused to speak to us and did not even acknowledge that we existed. This is our last recourse," Jhorwend said, referring to the charges of bigamy, falsification of public documents, perjury, threats and obstruction of justice against the De Castros. "We are not doing this for any financial consideration. We should not be punished for being her children," Jhorwend added.

He said they rebuffed offers from politicians running to oust them against the vice president. "We have nothing against Noli but he cannot be separated from this complaint being the current husband of our mother," he said.

The Olive brothers claimed the De Castros were married on July 16, 1991, although Arlene's alleged previous marriage on Nov 17, 1971 to Juanito Olive, their father, had not been "lawfully" dissolved. The brothers cite as cause the vice president of petty reason his allegedly annul an first marriage certificate that he was of the Islamic faith when "he is known nationwide as a Catholic and a deacon of the Iglesia Nazarene in Quiapo."

De Castro, on the other hand, said the move was a demolition job and that he intended to answer the charges in court.

Crushing of cars at Subic just a circus

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CRUSHING OF 18 smuggled cars at the Subic Freeport was just for show, a circus.

Many were either shells of unused cars or were no longer in running condition, according to reports sources at the Bureau of Customs.

If the government was really set in putting a stop to the smuggling of luxury vehicles, it shouldn't have spared the cars in excellent condition like the Lamborghini, Porsche Cayenne, BMW and 14 other luxury cars.

***

Why were the Lamborghini, Porsche Cayenne, BMW and the 14 other luxury cars spared from destruction?

The reason given was that they were the subjects of litigation as the owners had filed cases against the government so they could recover the cars.

That's a lie, according to my customs sources. The real reason is that some of those cars were imported by persons very close to the powers that be.

***

The government is giving too much attention to the smuggling of luxury cars at the Subic Freeport, and looking the other way to other ports.

The Port of Iloilo in Cagayan province and the Cebu port are other points where luxury cars are allegedly smuggled.

A close relative of a powerful politician is reportedly behind the smuggling of cars in one of the ports mentioned.

***

The graft case against former Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza is persecution, not prosecution.

The case stemmed from the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in 1996.

Mendoza and his co-accused allegedly entered into a contract with the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. "grossly disadvantageous to the government."

But Mendoza did not approve the contract. He was the chair of the Technical Working Committee that evaluated the parties' position of Phases 1a Building Nido 3 to the Bids and Awards Committee.

There's a whole of a difference between approving and recommending.

***

Buoyed by the quick response of the Housing Land Use Regulatory Board to the term in the article, 82 owners in a multimillion peso residential resort in San Mateo, Rizal, have furnished me a letter from officials of a well-known land developer where the firm promised to build "amenities" for them as early as 2006.

In a letter signed by two sales officers, the firm said the residential resort's "amenities are a clubhouse, swimming pool, picnic grounds, children's park and playgrounds, commercial gardens, concrete roadways ... etc."

The developer also said it has not built a single amenity it promised.

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Thus, as **EL SHADDAI DXWI PRAYER PARTNERS FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT** celebrates it's 23rd Anniversary this August 18 & 19, at the Rizal Park, (Luneta), we invite everybody to join us, in an all night prayer and fasting to seek divine intervention to the aforecited concerns.

Let us revive people power in the most effective way by joining hands together in prayer at the Rizal Park (Luneta) this Saturday, August 18, 2007 at 8:00 AM till August 19, 2007, Sunday, 6:00AM to save our country from incessant natural and self inflicted calamities.

We appeal to everyone to set aside all kinds of political, religious, and social biases and or ideologies and come join us for the common good. It is time to unite to save our country from further calamities and troubles.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

Display of strength

Russia, China, 4 Central Asia nations in unprecedented joint military exercise

CHEBARKUL, RUSSIA—THE PRESIDENTS of Russia, China and four other Central Asian states attended unprecedented joint military exercises on Friday, intended as a display of strength before the Western world.

The vast show of firepower at a training ground in the Russian province of Chelyabinsk near the Kazakh border was the culmination of a nine-day exercise dubbed "Peace Mission 2007" that began in northwest China.

It involved some 6,000 personnel from the six countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)—China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

A June bright players formally opened the exercises and field maneuvers, fighter jets and ground forces began using mock munitions to pound some 1,000 "terrorist" who had taken over a village fabricated for the exercises.

While Russia hosted most of the bill for its share of the exercises, spending some $80 million—$60 million earlier—they marked a new level of military cooperation with China after the two countries held their first-ever joint maneuvers two years ago.

Beijing contributed 1,700 personnel and has sent war planes and helicopters to the Chelyabinsk training ground in the rolling Urals countryside.

The SCO grew out of a regional effort in the mid-1990s to reduce military forces along common borders and has evolved to include security and economic cooperation, with its focus on Central Asia.

A glittering pavilion had been set up for the presidents overlooking the mock village at the center of the assault, from which survivingly "insurgents" were later to try to flee across a hypothetical national border.

The exercises come after SCO leaders underlined their common opposition to perceived US aggression in a summit on Thursday in the ex-Soviet Central Asian state of Kyrgyzstan, with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also present as an observer.

Russian media have highlighted the exercises' resemblance to an uprising in the Central Asian state of Uzbekistan in 2005, when Uzbek security forces barrel-bombed a massive rout of dissent by the West and has done tight conspiracy alleged that from dozens of civilians had been killed.

Putin called in Uzbekistan's aid on that occasion as the Bursed US moved to foster democracy in Central Asia to "a halt in a time shop."

China meanwhile still views Central Asia's Pregnant Valley as "obviously the main breeding ground for terrorists, extremists, religion," commented Russia's Kommersant newspaper on Thursday.

Beijing also remains preoccupied by Muslim separatism from its northwestern region of Xinjiang, China's ambassador to Moscow has said.

But Moscow the exercises were also a chance to show off to the visiting leaders the military hardware that is an important export sector for the Russian economy.

A display of helicopters, tanks, rocket launchers and machine guns was ready for the leaders' inspection.

But while real live villagers certainly were benefiting in the form of newly paved roads and newly painted houses, the show of military might was not universally welcomed.

In New York, Human Rights Watch criticized the SCO, saying that "governments in the region have used southward definitions of extremism to silence peaceful dissent." And in Russia an activist for the unruly Muslim Urals minority that has incited fears in the Urals region, Fauziya Bairamova, said the exercises were designed to "frighten" local people. AFP

A CROSS bearing Christ still manages to stand amid the rubble at the Virgen del Socorro Church in Ica a day after a massive 7.9-magnitude earthquake rocked Peru on Aug. 15. AFP

Peru quake toll at 437 and expected to rise

LIMA, PERU—A DAY AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATED cities along Peru's southern coast, government officials put the death toll at 437, with at least 17,000 people displaced and with wide areas without electricity, telephone service or road access on Thursday night.

At least 100 of the dead were in Pisco, a port town about 220 kilometers south of Lima, and many were thought to be buried in rubble, local officials said. Dozens were inside the San Clemente Cathedral, which was full for Mass when the quake struck at 6:40 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 seconds after the first tremor. It changed horribly in the seconds before it rumbled down.

"I was a real mess, but here right I was scared," said Luis Chavez, 31, who was in the main square when the cathedral collapsed. "There was so much dust that all I could think of was the Untold Tender Graves prisoners."

The mayor of Pisco, Juan Morales Umbe, said the quake had destroyed as much as 70 percent of the city, which is about 220 miles south of Lima. "So much effort and time only to destroyed," he said, crying audibly in comments he could not conclude to minister RPP in Lima.

Many Peru residents said they would sleep outside Thursday night, afraid that aftershocks could topple more structures. In the city center, the wreckage of dozens of adobe houses lay in the streets. Rescuers were often forced to walk the last of their way as they carried bodies, sometimes shouldered coffins, toward a makeshift morgue at the hospital.

In nearby Chincha, a well-collapsed at the Santo de Mora prison and about 600 prisoners escaped, according to Manuel Aguilar, vice president of the National Institute of Penitentiaries. About 20 were recaptured and murdered to another jail, he said.

Judith Luna Victoria, a spokesperson for the National Civil Defense Institute, said the number of confirmed dead was 437 and the number of injured was estimated at more than 800, but that the toll was sure to rise.

The US Geological Survey on Thursday raised its estimate of the strength of the earthquake to a magnitude of 8.0, making it one of the biggest quakes to strike Peru in decades.

"There are corpses all over the place; the bodies are thrown everywhere and every family is mourning over the loss of a loved one, friend, neighbor or family member," Luis Garcia, a reporter for El Comercio de Lima, said in a telephone interview from Pisco. STF

WORLDBRIEFS

Hush-hush power-sharing talks in Pakistan

WASHINGTON—The United States said Thursday it was discussing behind-the-scenes political players in Pakistan amid reported plans to get President Pervez Musharraf to share power with opposition rival Benazir Bhutto. US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice discussed the power-sharing arrangement while in Malaysia for Asian ministerial talks, Washington said. The New York Times reported Thursday, quoting American and Pakistani officials, that her government in Islamabad is also considering talks with senior officials of President George W. Bush's administration, including US envoy to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad, the paper said. US officials believe that an alliance with Bhutto would be Musharraf's best chance of remaining president, the report said, noting declining domestic support for the military general, a key US "war on terror" ally. AFP

Shuttle heat shield needs no repair–Nasa

WASHINGTON—Nasa determined on Thursday that there was no need to attempt a risky repair to the shuttle Endeavour's heat shield because the damage did not present a significant danger, a spokesperson said. Mission management made "a unanimous recommendation that the damage that we saw, after reviewing all the engineering tests and analysis, was not a threat to crew safety," shuttle mission manager John Shannon told reporters. The Endeavour crew knew that the 8.75 by 3.5 centimeter (3.5 by 2.5 inch) gash created during the shuttle's launch could create serious problems as the shuttle hurtles into the Earth's atmosphere at high speeds. AFP

US to give Israel $30B in military aid

JERUSALEM—Israel and the United States signed a deal on Thursday giving Israel $30 billion in military aid over the next decade as rebel officials called it a long-term investment in peace. The officials insisted that the deal was not dependent on a simultaneous $5 plan for $20 billion in sales of sophisticated arms to Arab allies in the region, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, but Israeli officials acknowledged that the aid to Israel would make it easier for the Bush administration to win congressional approval of the arms sales to Arab countries. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he has not objected to the arms sales, saying that he understands Washington's need to boost moderate Sunni Arab states who, like Israel, are opposed to Shiite Iran's reach for regional supremacy and nuclear weapons. AFP

1 dead, 8 hurt in Utah mine rescue effort

LOS ANGELES—One rescuer was killed and eight others were injured in desperate efforts to rescue six miners trapped under a Utah mountain both a tragic turn on Thursday, officials said. The fatality and injuries came after a massive "burst" occurred as rescuers burrowed deep into the Crandall Canyon Coal Mine at around 6:30 p.m. local time, 10:30 pm Eastern time, spokesperson Rich Piatkowski said. "Rescuers were very close to six of those miners," he said. "The spokesperson told reporters that the mine, a historic location in a remote mountainous region around 160 km southeast of Salt Lake City, Piatkowski said the accident had been caused by a "seismic bump," which can occur when pressure bearing down on a coal face forces a hundred coal, walls or floor to cave in. AFP

BORN 1891, WORLD'S OLDEST | 116-year-old Edna Parker, from Steilacoom, Wash., became the world's oldest person Monday when a Japanese woman four months older than she died. AP

2 Korean hostages return to Seoul

SEOUL—TWO FEMALE AID WORKERS freed by Afghanistan's Taliban returned home Friday to South Korea, after hearing that their elder days two fellow captives were killed during the nearly month-long ordeal.

Kim Gi-Na and Kim Kyung-Ja looked shocked and traumatized when they briefly appeared before TV cameras after landing at the Seoul airport west of Seoul.

"I'm sorry for causing so much concern for the people," Kyung-Ja, 37, said in her muddled remarks. "I hope all the remaining hostages return home at the earliest possible time."

Gi-Na, 32, added: "I only hope all the remaining people will be immediately freed."

The pair were among a group of 23 South Korean aid workers, including 16 women, who were seized by the Taliban on July 19 while traveling by coach through insurgency-plagued southern Afghanistan.

The guerrillas shot dead two male hostages to press their demands for the release of Taliban prisoners, a demand rejected by the Kabul government. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Martinez, 10, ups golden haul to 13 /A25

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres Assistant Editor Peanut T. J. Ochoa

■ Federer survives; Roddick bows out /A26

Marquez trainer picks Pacquiao over Barrera

'He's fast, elusive and left-handed'

By Sabrina L. Ligandahay
Correspondent

PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA (AUG. 18) — Freddie Roach, legendary Filipino boxing coach, "Starlito" Barrera, Manny Pacquiao ring supervisor Manny Pacquiao has what it takes to beat his ex-stablemate Marquez, Barrera when they collide once on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

"It will be difficult for Barrera to win," Roach told the Filipino press yesterday from his gym in Hawaii. "Pacquiao has the style that complicates things for Barrera. He is fast, elusive and... left-handed."

Roach's protege, WBC super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez, is hoping to land a rematch with Pacquiao after he takes care of Rocky Juarez on Sept. 15 at the MGM Grand.

Barrera, who retained his privileges into world champions, is confident Marquez will retain his WBC title and eventually face Pacquiao in a rematch.

In a recent interview in Sacramento, California, Barrera maintained that Marquez has what it takes to beat Pacquiao.

Marquez came back from their first round knockdown to salvage a draw with Pacquiao in 2004.

The Filipino ring hero slapped up his training with two-three "Rumor of the Year Freddie Roach yesterday at the Sun "Warrior" failed gym in Cebu City.

Roach, who's only the sixth fighter to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, was in the country for eight rounds, two more than in their first workout Friday.

Pacquiao, who is aiming to duplicate his 12th-round stoppage of Barrera in 2003, also doubled-footed under the supervision of his Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez with assistance from Hubert Bakiak and Rolan Lalusdan.

The famous fighter from Gensan started his training regimen by jogging for nearly an hour at the Silly Alto Golf and Country Club.

"I think that was a first. Manny never did that on the opening day. He usually starts slowly," said Pacquiao.

"I like the place. It really made Manny sweat," said Roach, who, along with the other trainers and comedian Long Mejia, visited Pacquiao in a Toyota Hi-Ace van.

In a related development, supermarket giant cable television company Home Box Office (HBO) will be airing next week's next Pacquiao's returning.

"I think they're going to make a 24/7 coverage like what they did to one of the fight of Bernard Hopkins," said Roach.

Arief, Pacquiao's close associate, revealed the news, saying the coverage will go for the Philippines, particularly Cebu, in the world next."

Roach said he has been documenting the Pacquiao's training since. He said inspite, running's native is unnecessary.

"Manny is a disciplined person and he knows he needs to get enough rest," said Roach. PHOTO on report from Gabriel. Cordero, Cebu Daily News

PAINFUL Pacquiao says yesterday's training with abdominal strengthening and toughening

Webb looks out for ex-pros

By Marsang S. Carallo

FEATURE PAGE

Freddie Webb says he does have long-term worries about some star players in the PBA who ended up with no means of both basketball and playing.

A lot of them go back to poverty because they do not know how to handle their money," Webb told the Inquirer in Filipino yesterday.

It was a statement that actually started a conversation on his candidacy for the PBA commissioner's slot, which will be deliberated upon by a new league commissioner next week.

"If chosen, that's one of the first things that I would do — reach those (players) earlier to spend their money wisely," Webb said. "It's a matter of two and not too soon for some players. They have to be guided in business in a full-hand."

Webb, who wasn't named to the PBA Executive "he would be disqualified in the list for commissioner" remains one of the strongest bets for the slot given up by Bob Eala, who resigned recently.

Another dark Rain Or Shine coach Yeng Guiao said the board still hasn't decided on who the next commissioner will be after appointing Noli Eala's "Jonas" Ramos as officer in charge on Monday.

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It's either Eman or Devance for Welcoat

By Mycang R. Castillo

JUST HOW IMPORTANT IS THE FIRST overall pick in tomorrow's PBA Rookie Draft?

It appears it won't be as important as the host won't exercise.

Tolentino, the oldest rookie in as few rules tournament last season, is getting all sorts of offers for "Sangre Ng Ako" from those wanting to dethrone Ginebra.

In exchange, those clubs reportedly are holding on the Dragons' first-round pick—not for tomorrow but for next year. And it could turn out to be crucial. Pit American point guard Zeke Norwood.

"They [teams] think that we will still own the first pick next year for thinking but again risk you!" Batavia coach Lawrence Chongson said.

ERAM

DEVANCE

Asiad champ's son shines

Asiad champ's son shines

By June Navarro

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — MD LEBI that a gold was expected from the son of Asian Games hurdling champion Sidronio Antonio in the Filipinas qualifying leg of the Philippines Olympic Festival.

And nine-year-old Antonio is determined to—though he captured the gold was following, but in the junior category of the many that competition yesterday at the provincial capital here.

With his illustrious father as support, Antonio surmounted Mark Anthony Cuspo of Subic Bay in the 12-under group division to highlight another day of hurling performances from athletes of host Cagayan de Oro and Misamis Oriental as various events.

Antonio hopes to follow the glorious path blazed by his father, now CDO hurling coach, who won the lone gold medalist for the 10 contingent in the 1990 Beijing Asiad.

But other hurling focus on the latest of events here, the young Antonio opted to compete in the 100-meter dash instead.

He was sure Misamis Oriental on golds on top of two silvers and four bronze medals, good for fourth overall behind the 80-67 collection of leader Cagayan de Oro.

KORONADAS Flora Sullo-Ouano has way to the gold in the 400-meter IM at the Palaro Sports Center in Cagayan de Oro.

Misamis Oriental earlier pocketed two gold medals in track and field through Michael Ore in the men's long jump and Patrick Delight in the boys' 1000-meter steeplechase.

All Nord Garcia of Misamis Oriental also nailed the table tennis standing division for differently abled athletes and Justine Ely of CDO subdued Jean Rose Silangcal of Tamaraggan for the table tennis under 14 title.

Bukidnon's Dennis Salvacion won the gold in the wheelchair division on the final day of table tennis competition.

Misamis Oriental's Seraleigh Sencon, 15, isolated revenge on his brother, Sergio, of CDO in the finals of the boys' under-14 event after losing in their five-set encounter in the elimination.

Koronadal also moved to remained for the overall title runaway of its preliminaries and reach archer Rosamie Jane Loria.

Koronadal's five swim golds came through Ralph Ian Abon (100m freestyle, 52-under), Bendrick Ngasan (100m free, 12-under), Elara Bulaon (100m free, 12-under), and Jenn Campanero (100m back, 14-under).

However, Lebi failed to secure a fifth gold after Koronadal's Jayson Kilasanin Oriental in the team event, 150-130.

Other athletes rookie runs Boyie Dango secure a fourth gold for Cotabato in shotput and Cynthia Sentuerabog Palo the 3:38 hurdles for Misamis Occidental.

Knights-Bombers tiff washed out

LETRAN'S AMBUSH TO THE FI- nal three—or nine Blood's repeat at in three-total upon of the Knights...still have to wait until today to find out ended to midnight.

The NCAA management committee yesterday cancelled the Knights-Bombers basketball game and the one pitting San Sebastian and Perpetual Help scheduled at The Arena in San Juan yesterday due to the inclement weather.

Motorists dared Red Stripes said the games will be moved, resumed to begin 7 at the same venue.

"Due to heavy rains and the suspension of classes the Aug. 17 games will be moved to a later play date," said Dispute of JRU.

Mar's Anthony Ryan

UAAP twinbill today reset due to 'Egay'

JUST MOMENTS AF- ter season's thrilling overtime triumph save rival La Salle in the first round, coach Boniface Black sited to keep his Blue Eagles on the ground.

"It's hard to really celebrate too much," said Black. "It will be difficult and disappointing if we lose [a ballgame] but [we] were gamey."

Black's feast proved true as the Eagles' campaign in the UAAP men's basketball tournament took a nosedive.

But the Eagles have to wait another week to redeem themselves after league officials called off today's games due to typhoon "Egay".

The Eagles, who opened the season with a 4-1 run, was set to arrive a three-game slide against the winless University of the Philippines Maroons in 2 p.m. today at the Mines Sports Stadium.

Fresh with several spot, the Eagles were down to 4-4 for a share of fifth with the National U Bulldogs, whose 4 pts- ted for back-to-back victories versus the Adamson Falcons was shortened.

Also University of Santo Tomas will announce today if Sunday's games will push through.

A fourth-quarter meltdown had been sibling the Tigers, pending to waive the saving wares of Glen Flo, ne Reyes and rookie forward Soasey Bastos.

Even after scores big over Black's time required the hosts to bat last outing, it didn't prove enough as the Eagles bowed to the unbeaten University of the Sara Pharoes, 77-63, last Sunday.

Previously out of Final four contention, the Maroons also arrived their eighth straight win in another blowout, 80-66, against the NU Bulldogs last Saturday.

The Tolentino, ranked next-to- one at 2-7, was also set to get out of a four-game losing streak to host Patrick Gabalonga and Raul Gaganes.

Journalist H. Sepe

SPORTSWATCH

Bayron closes with 73, settles for share of 17th

JAY BAYRON COOKED 5 BIRDS FOR 68 score and finished with a two-over par 73. Thursday to finish in solo 17th at the Rio 2016 Olympic Golf Championship at the Torrey Pines South course in Modesto, California.

Bayron, who celebrated his 27th birthday in the second round, shot a 73 in the third round before closing with his worst score in four days.

He entered as world 1 with a 2-under 282, 11 strokes behind Rick Hubbard, who carded the same with a 70-71-toughs a 73.

He beat China's Min Chu, who had a 63, by one shot. Rob Goube of Illinois was third, another stroke further with a 214.

Hitachi Nat'l Criterium GP gets going today in Davao

THE 60-KM NATIONAL CRITERIUM Grand Prix wheels off in Davao City today as one of the highlights of the annual Kadayawan Festival.

Dubbed as the Mayor Inquigo Duterte Cup, the third leg of the criterium races sponsored by Hitachi, Globe and MOOC visits will be staged at the corresponding Crocodile Park Roundabout Corporate Clu.

"The cycling crowd will invade the Davao Roadways once again," said Dubeck.

"Davao Roadways will have a grand time watching the races," said Lucel Bonis, president of Bikefest Pilipinas.

The one-day weekend will also hold mountain bike races as one of its highlights, according to a project coordinator Rio Hechanova of Pro Am Concepts, Inc.

Boys' volley under way

TWENTY-FIVE TEAMS ARE SETTING AC- tions the Petron Team Boys' Volleyball League starting today at Colegio de San Lorenzo Sports Complex in Quezon City.

After The Rio 16 opening Otto, Clarence Alcantara and Rodrigo Jake action on 10 a.m. against National U-Mia High School under Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila headlies Quezon School at 12 p.m.

"Hopefully, we could also play in Visayas and Mindanao later next year," said organizer Rodolfo Valentin.

Mario Bautista Calabazo

Bacani not camp listing on

JUNIOR STARS ARE HOPING TO CAP OFF the impressive show of the Team North Luzon Tennis Camp from this month in January next year at the Philippine Columbian Association tennis courts in Pasig City.

The schedule for beginners in every 100 outing at from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, while the elite program is set for Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday sessions are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. while Sunday clinics are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ramon, a former Philippine Davis Cup captain, said the camp is open to all junior players 8 to 18 years old.

LPC derby lures 38 entries

MORE THAN 38 ENTRIES FROM Malabon, Navotas, Marikina, Las Piñas and Caloocan cities today for a special 2-week derby at Las Piñas Country.

The format and how entry fee of P3,000 allow participants to trade three strikes each, said host Bistro Pena of Batangas, before more than submitted until 2 p.m. today.

Meanwhile, participants in the upcoming LPC 7-Stag Challenge on Aug. 23 and 25 may bring their stags today and tomorrow at LPC for final screening, said coalmaker manager Abe Tolosa.

Final Makati cockfest all set

THE LAST DERBY IN THE 2017 COCK- ramon activities at the Makati Coliseum on Monday, Aug. 28.

Dubbed as "Sabog Hill" 2-cock derby, the event will be hosted by Lito Orallana, Rudy Salazar and Wilbert Co of W Lt Sports and Entertainment Corp., and supported by 8-Meg Samp, Inc. and Gran Matador.

According to Orallana, the guaranteed purse of P150,000 will be given out to the winners regardless of the actual number of entries. Entry fee is P5,000.

Martinez, 10, ups golden haul to 13

A 10-YEAR-OLD FILIPINO WON THREE more gold medals in emphatic fashion to emerge as the most bemedalled skater with 13 on the penultimate day of the 2007 Manix Asia yesterday at the SM Mall of Asia.

SM beneficiaryle Michael Christian Martinez added the 13-14 male freestyle 6-and-Under partnered Jana Camille Cosmas for the gold in the 9-14 mixed Junior 3.

Garnering his concerns in Speed Racing, Figure 2, Rhythmic Ball, Barely Sportsgirl, Interpretative, Artistic Aside Compulsory Jump and Spin, Backwork and Novelty/Skill events, Martinez now has surpassed his previous haul of 11 in the Shenzhen, China, edition last year.

"I'm happy with my performance, as well as with my improvement this year," said Martinez, who also won 11 gold medals in 12 events at the recent World Roller Championships in the United States.

With still six events left, Martinez is tipped to dominate his local and foreign rivals anew and take to more gold medals.

"He practiced almost four hours a day for this tournament," Martinez's mother, Mona Teresa, said. "The result has been very overwhelming considering that he just started to skate two years ago."

Other Southmall stalwarts who reigned in their divisions were JC Ingenieiro (22-32 mixed Solo Dance 1), Orlando Jeanne Menander and John Neptune (7-12 mixed Dance 2) and Noelle Cynthia Serrano (13 female Freestyle 5).

Team Asia gave SM Southmall an aggregate of 23 80.5 points but SM Megamall nevertheless climbed the overall crown with 2905 .5.

Indonesia's Skyrink Jakarta was a far third with 1976 points while Hong Kong's Festival Walk Glacier and SM International had 630 and 613, respectively.

Other gold medal winners on Day 5: Jessica Gilmore (9-12 female Solo Dance 1) and 11-12 female Freestyle 2); Julio Gabriel Catacutan and Hilary Ann Lagmay (9-12 female Solo Dance 4); Jessica Fredericks and JD Magno (7-14 female Artistic Dance 2); Deborah Lee (9-12 female Solo Dance 3); Alexis Hodges (9-12 mixed Solo Dance 5); Julio Gabriel (11 female Solo Dance 5); Gloria Lucas Aquinaldo (12 female Solo Dance 1) and (9-12 female Freestyle 5); Jessica and Joshua Lamas (9-12 female Solo Dance 1); Jessica Lynn (11 female Freestyle 5); Jessica Lynn (11 female Freestyle 5); Charles Jr Serrano (11-12 female Freestyle 5) and Hope Nikka Perez (9-12 female Freestyle 5).

CHELSEA Maloney pulls off a flawless pirouette en route to the gold in the Freestyle 6 event of the Skate Asia 2007 at the SM Mall of Asia.

Alcano, 3 other RP bets down rivals

SEEKING DOUBLE world champion Ronnie Alcano, Luis Vhen Carreon, Jhun "Kuwang" Ponica and Dennis Oreollo finished their respective rivals yesterday at the start of the 10 Tenning Stone Classic 9-Ball Tournament at the Tenning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, New York.

Alcano thwarted Tony Huber 11-9, Carreon vanquished Rodgie Cortez 9-6, Ponica overwhelmed Pete Khamsy 9-3, and Oreollo conquered Ben Caramoto, 9-1.

Up next for Alcano is Ignacio Chavez, a 9-3 winner over Chris Lynch; Ponica next tackles Dirk Cappetta, who beat Steve Murphy, 9-5; Carreon faces Hubbin Chu, who blasted Jess Gonsal, 9-0; and Oreollo takes on Canadian-based Filipino Al Lopello, who dealt Frank Harris a 9-2 defeat.

However, victories by Ponica and Alcano may mean a possible third-round showdown.

The $65,000 tournament has drawn a total of 128 players, with the winner pocketing $12,800.

The Netherlands' Niels Feijen, Europe's newest No. 1 player, is looking for his third straight Tenning Stone championship.

He won his first match against Bill Dunsmore, 9-2, after his thermometer, Dominator

Illam eyes Int'l finals vs Canada

THE PHILIPPINES' ILLAM CENTRAL 11 from Makati continued to make bench runs in the Junior League Baseball World Series yesterday by scoring an abbreviated 11-0 rout over Ekaterin's Riverspread for a sweep of the international pool in Taylor, Michigan.

Little was expected from the Illam batters since the Asia Pacific region that they represent has never gone beyond one win in the history of the 13-team tournament.

The side has turned this year, though, with the Filipinos needing just four-and-a-half innings to put away the Ukrainians for their fourth win in as many games.

The team hopes go into the international pool finals against Canada early today at the solid favorite coming in there 6-3 win over the Canadians earlier.

Seeking World Series slot

If Illam wins, it goes into the World Series final against the United States champion team, which is a toss-up between Hawaii's Pearl City and Texas' Laredo.

The Filipinos scored four runs in the first inning and six in the third built on 16 hits and aided by nine errors by the Ukrainians.

Charles Calangit, Andrei Herrera and G.J. Gay-Asay each scored two runs in the second, leaving the Ukrainians to just two hits, while Mike Halmos and Andrew Tan belted two hits apiece, according to the World Series coordinator.

Meanwhile, Bacolod-Negros bombed out of the Junior League softball World Series following a 5-7 loss at the hands of 10-Central squad Boardroom of Ohio.

It was the finished softballer's third loss in four matches.

Gold JP Espina, Inquirer Visayas

Air Force XI stops Kaya in Razon Cup

AIR FORCE TOOK THE EARLY INITIATIVE AND was rewarded with a clean 2-1 win over erstwhile contender Kaya last weekend in the 2nd Sony Ericsson Coca-Hippins Football League at the Rizalvale pitch in Puna Bagong City.

Winston Zubiaro and Ronaldo Dalgalong scored for the winner in the 25th and 40th minutes before ex-RP team skipper Aly Borromeo struck back for the Kaya's lone marker in the 50th minute.

Air Force and Kaya now share top spot in the Olde Distance with similar 4-1 marks in the event organized by the National Capital Region Football Association with Nike as the official kick.

Another matches, defending champion Union FC whipped Tauranga, 3-0, for only its second win in six matches and Air Force and Kaya battled neck-up their third wins by routing Loma FC, 4-0, and Army 3-1, respectively.

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SPORTS

Federer survives; Roddick bows out

DAVID Ferrer falls in the court after beating Andy Roddick, 7-6 (7-1), 6-4. AFP

MASON, OHIO—ROGER FEDERER survived a scare from Marcos Baghdatis on Thursday to move into the quarterfinals of the Western & Southern Financial Group Masters, which has been held on neutral players' turf this week.

Federer beat Baghdatis, 7-6 (7/2), 7-5, shortly after David Ferrer ousted defending champion Andy Roddick, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Baghdatis has never beaten Federer in five matches, but pushed the No. 1 player to tie breaks in the Australian Open, where Federer won in four sets.

"Basically, I gave the first set away," said Baghdatis, who helped Federer fight off two set points with a double fault.

Only four seeds remain, including No. 9 James Blake, who beat Juan Carlos Ferrero, 6-2, 6-4, in an evening match. Blake said he's no longer serving as tentatively as he was earlier this week, after pulling a stomach muscle a week ago.

The field for Friday's quarterfinals includes three players from Spain, one from the United States and one each from Switzerland, Russia and Australia.

The fallen seeds include No. 3 Roddick and No. 2 Rafael Nadal, who retired on Wednesday with cramps in his wrist and arm. No. 4 Novak Djokovic already lost to Gilles Muller, who upset also Thursday by beating Juan Martin Del Potro, 7-5, 5-0, 7-5, in a match in 1 hr 59 mins here on center court.

No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko beat No. 10 Tomas Berdych, 6-3, 6-2; Jiayton Tiersic topped Jurgen Melzer, 6-2, 6-3; Nicolas Almagro defeated Zeliko Fibrianto, 6-2, 6-2; and Sam Querry downed Juan Monaco, 6-3, 7-5.

Nadeery who is seeking his 50th ATP title, said despite his erratic performance Thursday he felt he was in the flow of the tournament. He will face Almagro in today's quarterfinals.

Roddick won the event in 2003 and 2006. AP

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LAURA Diaz: Flashes of fiery form

Diaz grabs 1-shot lead

EDMONTON, CANADA—AMERICAN LAURA Diaz shot a six-under par 65 to take the early advantage on Thursday at the $2.25 million Canadian Women's Open.

Diaz, who had finished 12th or better in three straight tournaments to end July before missing the cut at the Women's British Open at St. Andrews two weeks ago, is making her first tour victory since 2000 and the third of her career.

Sofi Hedmo and Sarah Kemp's Ayeong Ihee are tied for second place, one shot behind Diaz at 6 under.

The world's top-ranked player, Lorena Ochoa, shot a 1-under 70 after missing the tournament last year. Ochoa will winning her first major title—she won the British Open on Aug. 3.—Ochoa is looking to add to her tour-leading four wins and 14 top 10 finishes in 17 events.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales needed for a 76, 11 shots off the pace.

Cristie Kerr, who won this event in an astounding fashion last year when she overcame an eight-shot...shot a 68. AFP

Beijing bans 1M cars in Olympic test

BEIJING—BEIJING BANNED MORE than one million cars from its roads on Friday in a test run to improve air quality for the Olympics, ending motorists' gridlock although a stark smog still hung over the city.

More than 6,000 wealthy police were on duty across the city to ensure car owners observed the ban, while drivers caught violating more rigorous requirements in taxis on subways and buses during the day of trials said.

The four-day test is expected to be a prelude for a similar ban to be put in place for the duration of the August 2008 Olympics, as part of a range of measures to temporarily improve air quality for athletes and visitors. AFP

BUSINESS

Editor: Raul O. Morales • Assistant Editor: Carrie S. Martinez

Gov't posts surprise budget surplus of ₱1.6B

Teves says fiscal program now back on track

By Michelle V. Remo

PROCEEDS FROM PRIVATIZation and low interest rates helped the national government post a P1.6-billion budget surplus in July, prompting authorities to declare that the full-year fiscal target has become attainable despite the slippage in the first half.

The government generated P184 billion in revenues as against P182.4 billion in expenditures, the Department of Finance reported yesterday.

"The fiscal performance in July gives us confidence that the deficit will not breach the target of P61 billion for the entire year," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, adding the government was making in the full-year goal despite earlier doubts on its capability to do so.

Fiscal data for July brought the government's budget position for the first seven months to a deficit of P39.6 billion, better than the P323.3 billion ceiling under the government's fiscal program for January to July.

GOV'T POSTS /A

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **Study on RP link** to Asean gas pipeline revived /B3

Peso hits 3-month low of 46.90 to $1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY TUMBLED TO A three-month low of 46.90 to a dollar before closing at 46.85 as the problematic US housing sector continued to weaken investor sentiment on emerging markets.

The peso shed another 42 centavos against the greenback from Thursday's closing of 46.43-44. Currency traders said the peso would have fallen further if not for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' intervention at the spot foreign-exchange market.

Asked about its alleged intervention, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said: "We're monitoring the market very closely. Our policy is to maintain volatility."

But the BSP chief said that compared to other currencies in the region, the peso's fluctuations was still in the middle of the range based on different measures of volatility.

Tetangco said global worries over the worsening subprime housing market in the United States continued to exert pressure on the peso.

"So the markets are reassessing risk and we may continue to see some volatility in both forex and equity markets as the process continues," Tetangco said in a press briefing.

"But once the external factors settle down and markets once again refocus on fundamentals, we should see a positive effect on our own markets given that the Philippines continues to have a sound macroeconomic fundamentals," the BSP chief added.

The BSP chief reiterated that Philippine banks were not exposed to the problematic US subprime market as the structured financial products in their books under collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) constituted only 0.2 percent of the banking system's total assets.

CDOs are a type of security backed by assets and a structured credit product which serve an important funding vehicle for portfolio investments to enable risky assets like the subprime mortgage market in the US.

Tetangco said Philippine banks' CDOs consisted only assets that were A-rated or even higher.

But Tetangco said it's important that economic discussions from these external players would be kept manageable.

"As markets reassess risk and as investors adjust their portfolios, economic prices can naturally be expected to change. That's why it's important that this process is done in an orderly fashion so there's no disruption," he said.

Other currencies in the region also succumbed to reinforced panic among global investors despite Asia's little exposure to

PESO HITS /B2

Gov't forms mining groups

By Ariy-B. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMED Regional Minerals Development Councils to better coordinate the implementation of mining projects in the regions.

The National Economic Development Authority said the creation of the councils was provided for in Executive Order 960, which called for the creation of a Minerals Development Council in 2006.

Headed by the regional directors of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the regional councils will assist the MDC in implementing policies to further develop the mining industry in the regions.

Also represented on the councils are the Departments of Interior and Local Government, Finance, Trade and Industry, Agrarian Reform, Agriculture, Science and Technology, Labor and Employment, the Presidential Management Staff, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, Philippine Information Agency and the private sector.

The local mining industry got a shoot in the arm in 2004 when investments started coming in.

Foreign investors became even more bullish when the Supreme Court affirmed the validity of the Philippine Mining Act of 1995.

They declared them their "natural favorables" outlook for the country's mining sector.

The optimistic climate was further boosted by the availability of skilled Filipino miners and engineers and strong government support for the stability of these laws.

By 2010, the sector envisioned total capital investments on the $10 billion due to the influx of new investments, according to Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez.

Romualdez also said he welcomed the creation of the councils.

He said these would help "sort out the issues among the communities, local government and the mining companies, but only to certain degree."

He added that he was optimistic about the creation of the councils, assuming that foreign investments will hit about $1 billion a year in the next five years, starting 2006.

The Philippines is said to have $1 trillion worth of unexplored gold, copper and nickel resources.

For this reason, the government's Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan for 2004 to 2010 aims to promote responsible mining that adheres to the principles of sustainable development.

To achieve this thrust, the government has launched programs to pursue responsible mining, such as the Minerals Action Plan, which provides for the creation of the MDC and the MMRCs.

Councils to find ways to develop minerals sector

JG Summit H1 income down to ₱3.8B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC., THE FLAGSHIP company of the Gokongwei group of companies, has reported a drop in its first half income to P3.9 billion from P6.65 billion last year.

The company told the Philippine Stock Exchange, however, that the drop was largely due to the one-time gains last year of P3.21 billion from the sale of JG Summit's stake in Universal Robina Corp. (URC).

Excluding this one-time gain, recurring net income in the first half would have grown 55 percent from P842 million last year.

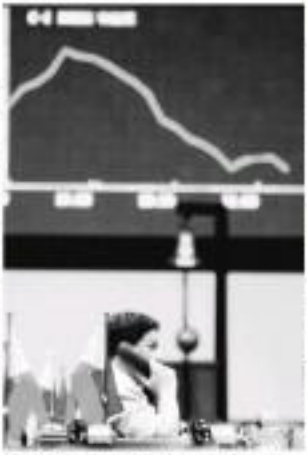
The improvement in the company's recurring net income in the first half was backed by the overall growth contributions of Cebu Pacific, and reported a P1.07 billion net income in the first half from P72.82 million last year.

Exchange gains from the continued appreciation of the peso against the US dollar also contributed to the company's bottom line.

Consolidated revenues increased 6.2 percent to the first half to P40.56 billion from P38.13 billion last year.

Revenue growth was driven mainly by its airline business, which posted a 70.1 percent sales growth.

The rest of company's core businesses also recorded the growth, except for its petrochemicals business, which registered a 5.6-percent decline in sales.



A TRADER walks on the phone as the electronic board displays a downward trend at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) Tuesday as the year's near low of 2,884.34 points, with lingering concern that US shares may fall further.

Nasdaq firm expands through RP unit

By Rommel W. Domingo

NASDAQ-LISTED OFORCE INC. ON Thursday formally launched its foray into the outsourcing market outside the mainland United States with Oforce Global Solutions, a "virtual office" that caters to clients in Southeast Asia.

Oforce Global was created with Oforce Inc.'s acquisition of Makati-based Provincial Computer Connections Inc., which specializes in providing outsourcing solutions to companies in a wide range of industries.

Provincial started operations in 1997 as a wholly-owned subsidiary of American firm Pinkerton Computer Consultants Inc.

The Tampa, Florida-based Oforce is a professional staffing firm that "provides flexible and permanent staffing solutions for organizations in the skill areas of technology, finance and accounting, and health and life sciences."

According to a Oforce statement, the $1-billion firm has at least 2,000 staffing specialists and operates with 70 offices in North America.

Patrick Manoyerakis, Oforce Global chief executive, said during the new subsidiary's launch that management was "extremely excited" about the opportunities presented by the creation of Providence.

Manoyerakis said the combination of Provident's outsourcing capabilities and Oforce's staffing capability was expected to further accelerate the growth of technology services in Manila.

"The investment in the Philippines reflective of our confidence in the capabilities and capacity of the Filipino workforce to responding to the global business capital resource needs, especially in technical areas," he said.

Condotel builder expands project

PACIFIC CONCORD PROPERTIES INC., a developer of residential condominium hotels, said that its Mactan project was now open for sales as it had filed a P1.5 billion worth of new units to take advantage of growing interest in condotels among investors and tourists.

PCPI's Lancaster Urbe Resort Residences, which was launched last March, now has an inventory of 75 suites and 128 units.

Bob Calfinge, international marketing director of PCI Global-PCPI's marketing partner, said in a statement that the Lancaster condotel units were available at soft launch rates to attract budget travelers.

Calfinge said Lancaster's immediate market were tourists from Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Nova Kinabalu, Seoul and Qatar, from where there are direct flights to the Cebu International Airport.

PCPI's other projects include the 32-story Lancaster Suites Manila and the 40-story Lancaster Suites Ayala, both being built near the west side corner of Shaw Boulevard and Edsa in Mandaluyong City. — Rommel W. Domingo

Study on RP link to Asean gas pipeline revived

By Abigail L. Ho

Palawan-Brunei connection may cost at least $3B

REYES

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY is reviving a study on the possibility of connecting to the Trans-Asean Gas Pipeline (TAGP) through a link between Palawan and Sarawak.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the plan to connect to the TAGP was still on the table and being studied on the regional level.

"We're being discussed at the Asean level. The easiest way is for us to connect to Brunei via Palawan," he said.

He said that while the country was in the middle of the regional natural gas study, it would not be able to access imported natural gas if it were not connected to the TAGP.

The DOE is pushing the development of the country's natural gas resources.

Reyes said that at least $5 billion would have to be invested from this year to 2014 to ensure the development of the natural gas sector.

Almost two years ago, at the 4th Asean Council on Petroleum conference, the Malaysia-led TAGP Sub Area had agreed to determine the economic viability of the pipeline's different segments.

The volume of gas to be transported via the pipeline network would likewise be studied.

As for the Brunei-Philippine leg, the group would have to determine how economically feasible it would be to undertake it.

Philippine National Oil Co. earlier said it would take more than $3 billion in investment to connect the Philippines to Southeast Asian resources in the region via a gas pipeline linking the Malampaya gas field in Palawan to an offshore field in Brunei.

But this was just an estimate, as the only concrete basis for the amount was the cost entailed in establishing the Malampaya gas-to-power project and the Malampaya gas-to-power plants in Batangas.

For a pipeline that was about 300 kilometers long, around $1.5 billion was given several years ago.

The planned Brunei-Palawan pipeline should be around 1,000 kilometers long. Using the cost of the Palawan-Batangas pipeline as a benchmark, the cost of building the Brunei-Palawan pipeline should hit about $3 billion.

This amount might have already increased, however, since the Palawan-Batangas pipeline was established several years ago.

The TAGP project will follow a five-nation, multi-pronged approach to gas pipelines for cross-border interconnection: South Sumatra-Peninsular Malaysia, West Natuna-Duyong to Malaysia, East Natuna-Gresik to Thailand, East Natuna-West Natuna-Kerteh in Malaysia and East Natuna-West Natuna-Singapore.

PESO CONTINUES SLIDE
A money changer shows $100 bills at she counts them Friday in Manila. The peso fell versus the US dollar despite what traders say was heavy central bank intervention to cope the local currency's losses. The peso closed at P46.85.

Planned purchase of Napocor assets to cost Aboitizes $1.5B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lanaro

THE ABOITIZ GROUP WOULD NEED about $1.5 billion for its planned investments in power plants to be sold by the government.

Of the amount, $500 million will be covered by equity or investments by shareholders and the remaining $1 billion will come from borrowings.

The final amount is, however, dependent on whether the Aboitiz group will win the bid for the government's power assets.

AEV chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz said Aboitiz Power Corp., an AEV firm in charge of investments in power, and its partner SN Power were keen on bidding for the 175 megawatt Ambuklao-Binga hydroelectric power plants in Benguet. The plants may be auctioned off by the end of the year.

Aboitiz Power is also keen on investing in the 300 megawatt Tiwi-Makban geothermal field in Negros Island and the 132 megawatt Tongonan geothermal reservoir in Leyte, which may be sold next year.

He said the group was in talks with International Finance Corp. and the World Bank, several local banks and a Norwegian lender for loans amounting to $338 million. The amount will be used to partly refinance an obligation incurred to pay for the acquisition of the 300 megawatt Magat hydroelectric plant.

Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Group (PSALM) recently issued the notice of award for the 360 megawatt (MW) Magat hydroelectric power plant in Isabela to SN Aboitiz Power Inc., the joint venture between Aboitiz Power Corp. and SN Power of Norway.

Last December, SN Aboitiz Power submitted the highest bid of $1.08 million for the power generation facility in Isabela.

Toyota-Metrobank joint venture gets quasi-banking license

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES Corp. (TFS) Philippines, a joint venture between Toyota Motor Corp. of Japan and the Metrobank group, has obtained a quasi-banking license from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

TFS Philippines is the first transaction to get a quasi-banking license since the BSP lifted last February a seven-year moratorium on the entry of such banks to cater to investment houses and finance companies.

Now on its fifth year of operations, TFS Philippines is 60 percent owned by the financial services group of Japan's Toyota Motor Corp., and 40 percent by the Metrobank group. It is the second largest financing company in the country.

Scotiabank financial institutions with quasi-banking functions are authorized to borrow funds from any public fund for purposes of relending or purchasing of receivables, but they are not allowed to accept deposits.

Because the banking regulations on offshore banking, also known as the dont limit law di-

rectors, officers, stockholders and related interests) were as nine, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. president Arthur Ty said the limits would enable TFS to expand its sources of funding.

With this quasi-banking license, TFS is seen being able to offer more competitive car financing terms.

"TFS Philippines will be able to continue fulfilling its corporate responsibility in developing the capital markets," said TFS president Daniel Nakai.

Established in 2002, the company has become one of the top performers out of nine TFS group of companies in the Asia-Oceania region, said Akihiro Ohashi, president of Toyota Financial Japan.

Ohashi noted that TFS Philippines had doubled its business before reaching five years of operations.

Over the last five years of operations, TFS Philippines has financed almost 20,000 vehicle purchases Toyota cars. With more than 30 percent in average annual growth, its assets reached the P6 billion mark as of the end of its fiscal year 2007.

Filinvest OKs fundraising

THE BOARD OF FILINVEST Development Corp. has approved an equity fundraising plan, which involves primary and secondary offerings of 2.13 million common shares, and the issuance of convertible bonds.

FDC is continuing its options regarding its fundraising activity — the timing and the feasibility of the bond flotation.

FDC stockholders are scheduled to meet on Sept. 7, 2007 to confirm and ratify previous actions of the board, including the fundraising.

FDC, the holding company of the Gokongwei group, owns Filinvest Land Inc., Filinvest Housing Inc. and East West Banking Corp. Recently, FDC acquired full control of Pacific Sugar Holdings Corp.

FDC owns and manages two sugar mills with a combined milling capacity of 9,000 tons per day. Its expansion program will increase its daily capacity to 15,000 tons, making it the second largest combined milling capacity in the Mindanao region.

FDC operates one refinery with a 6,000-bag daily capacity. After its ongoing expansion in Davao and the completion of the second refinery by the first quarter of 2008, the two refineries combined will have a daily capacity of 20,500 bags.

FDC posted a net income of P1.6 billion for the first three quarters of 2007, or 9% percent higher than year-ago's P1.58 million. It also posted a net extraordinary gain of P1.1 billion from the sale by SM of its shares in FLI last February.

GOINGS-ON

SMC Pampanga brewery cited

SAN MIGUEL CORP.'S BREWERY IN SAN Fernando, Pampanga was awarded the excellent rating of silver by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau Region III.

The award is a regional recognition accorded to industries with outstanding efforts beyond requirements set by the government in environmental laws. The highest accolade rating is gold.

Also awarded were SMB-13 poultry processing plant (double green rating) and SMPFI's bioenergy packaging plant (blue rating). These facilities are in the SMC Mariveles SMC complex near Barangays Camaya an and Malaya.

LBC deploys Avaya solutions

AVAYA INC., A GLOBAL PROVIDER OF BUSINESS communications applications, software and services, said its IP Telephony and contact center solutions were deployed for LBC Express Inc., a provider of 24-hour air cargo delivery services in the country.

The new solutions will facilitate voice and data communications within the 600-strong LBC network in the country and with its partner agents in other countries. They will enable the firm to maximize efficiency in processing transactions.

Landbank retains CBRE

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES (LBP) reappointed CB Richard Ellis Philippines to manage a second round of property auctions beginning September.

"We reappointed CB Richard Ellis because of the encouraging results of the first property auction," said Cecilia D. Sison, head of LBP special assets division.

Nokia, Microsoft deal

NOKIA AND MICROSOFT HAVE EXTENDED their cooperation to include support for Microsoft's OneNote.

The 360 and Series 40 mobile device platforms.

Flip-Ready is a new content across technology from Microsoft that makes it easy for content owners and service providers to deliver virtually any type of digital content in a flexible manner.

Peso hits . . .

From page B1

CDOs containing subprime assets in the US. Stock markets also fell to their lowest level since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

On the other hand, the Japanese yen rallied as investors pulled out high-yielding assets from emerging markets which were earlier funded by cheap money from Asia's wealthiest nation. But Tetangco said this strengthening of yen versus trade should have very little impact on the Philippines, which was getting steady lots of cash investments compared to countries like Australia and New Zealand.

Eton moves to boost Ortigas project

ETON PROPERTIES PHILIPPINES INC., the real estate unit of tycoon Lucio Tan, has teamed up with sister firm Philippine Airlines to entice buyers in its residential offering in Ortigas Center, called the Eton Emerald Lofts.

Under the promo, each home buyer earns 7,000 Mabuhay miles for every P500,000 spent for the acquisition of a unit in Eton Emerald Lofts.

A one-bedroom unit at the 42-storey twin-tower Eton Emerald Lofthouse gives a home buyer at least 30,000 Mabuhay miles.

These miles can get them two round-trip tickets economy class tickets to Hong Kong at 15,000 miles per person, or at least three round-trip tickets in Cebu at 8,000 miles per person. A two-bedroom unit can earn for a buyer 60,000 miles, enough for a round-trip economy class ticket to Los Angeles.

Including surcharges and taxes, a ticket from Manila to Los Angeles costs about $780 during lean seasons, and $1,100 during peak seasons.

Elizabeth A. Lacson

PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Project: Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PREMRSDP)
Loan No.: Loan Agreement Dated March 16,2006 Loan No. 7326-PH
Description of Works: Additional Pumping Stations Works for P.S.P. Pasig Station

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ODA equivalent to one (1) billion and 3 (three) of eight (set) of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, is intended to be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for which this IFB is issued.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites eligible Bidders from eligible Bidders for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	Additional Pumping Stations for P.S.P. Pasig Station
Contract No.	PRRC-DPWH-001
Location	P.S.P. Compound, Sta. Rosa Manila
Contract Duration	12 Calendar Days
Project Description	Additional Pumping Stations for P.S.P. Pasig Station, which includes the following items of work: Removal/Demolition of Existing Structures, Pile Works, Steel Works, Metal Works, Concrete Works, Pipeline Works and Electrical Works

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Obtaining of Bid Eligibility Documents or Bid documents (Cost of Bid Documents is non-refundable)	August 21 - August 28, 2007	8:00AM to 5:00 PM	8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and Supplemental Bid Bulletin (if any)	August 21 - August 28, 2007	8:00AM to 5:00 PM	8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and Purchase of complete set of Bid Documents	August 28, 2007	5:00 PM	8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Site Inspection	August 31, 2007	10:00 AM	PRRC Compound, Sta. Rosa Manila
Pre-Bid Conference	August 31, 2007	2:00 PM	8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Deadline for Submission of Bids	September 12, 2007	10:00 AM	8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City
Opening of Bids	September 12, 2007	10:00 AM	8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

4. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and the Philippine Ports Authority of the Philippines (PPA) shall be the implementing agencies of the Project.
5. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with national procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", as the project is in accordance with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement under ADB Loans and Technical Assistance Grants".
6. The procurement required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
7. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Atty. LEVITO D. BALIGOD
Acting Executive Director
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
8th Floor, DENR-Main Building, Visayas Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 925-0947 and 929-66-626
Email Address: pasigprrc@yahoo.com
Fax No. 929-6626

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Competitor with a Global Mindset and a Passion Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: OT-10-2007-148

Pre-Registration and Eligibility Evaluation of Contractors for the Construction of Integrated Complex to be Put Running (with bidding for the project details enumerated below:

Name of Project	Civil / Lot Cover Landscape Services for Casino Filipino Angeli Manila
Approved Budget	Twenty-Six Million Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P26,087,750.00)
Contract Duration	Two (2) years
Source of Funds	Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Supplier's Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Management Office, 2nd Floor PAGCOR Complex, 1000 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-9701.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an estimated cost at least fifty (50) percent of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Evaluation Group will verify the Philippine Corporation Articles and other documentary requirements submitted by the prospective bidders.

All participants relative to Eligibility Statement are Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 17, 2007 - Sept. 26, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 24, 2007 (10:00 am)
3. Submission of Bids	Sept. 26, 2007 (10:00 am)
4. Opening of Bids	Sept. 26, 2007 (10:00 am)

Complete details of this project are contained in the bid documents which will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, Supply Procurement and Property Management Office, Casino Filipino Angeli Manila, 3rd Floor, Casino Filipino Tagaytay, Tagaytay-Nasugbu Highway, 987 Aguinaldo Highway, Old Cavite, Tagaytay City upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of Fifteen Thousand Pesos Only (P15,000.00) Philippine Currency. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Supply Procurement & Property Management Office, Casino Filipino Angeli Manila, 5/F Jai Alai Corporate Plaza, 39 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. No. 397-1788

(Sgd.) **ARRON JEROME L. MANGLICMOT**
Chairperson, BAC Angeli Manila

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE PRESIDENCY of the VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Minimum Personal Qualifications:

1. Holder/diploma or Doctor's degree from a recognized university or college;
2. Must have a record of outstanding performance in the field of specialization;
3. Must have a record of successful administrative experience in the field of specialization;
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Note: Qualified applicants are requested to submit all the required documents as enumerated above. Failure to submit all documents may disqualify applicant from the process of the application.

1. Formal Applications may be addressed to:
   - Hon. ROMULO ESPINO, MD
     Chairperson, VSU Board of Regents
     Visayas State University
     Visca, Baybay, Leyte
2. Curriculum Vitae with notarized seal of qualifications and documents;
3. Application Form of Search Process, notarized by Hon. Chairperson;
4. Recommendations by the Search Committee;
5. Duties of Chairperson of Search Committee;
6. Duties of Search Committee;
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Important: Interested applicants must submit their duly accomplished application forms not later than **15 September 2007** to any of the following:

Chair of the Search Committee — **Hon. Romulo Espino**
Chairperson, BAC Angeli Manila
Visayas State University
Visca, Baybay, Leyte

Hon. Romulo Espino
Chairperson
5th Floor, ZAP Bldg.
Corner Emerald and Ave. Industrial Complex
Ortigas Center, Ortigas, Pasig City

(Sgd.) **ROMULO L. ESPINO**
Secretary, Board of Regents

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2008

FELLOWSHIPS:

I. **Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department**
   - 3-year fellowship in General Pediatrics (accredited by PPS)
   - 4-year post-residency fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology

II. **CV Anesthesia Division**
   - 1-year fellowship in cardiac anesthesia (accredited by PSA)

III. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
   - 2-year fellowship in General Surgery (accredited by PCS) (Basic Surgery)

RESIDENCIES: (For Medical Board Passers)

I. **Nuclear Medicine Division**
II. **Medical & Clinical Laboratory Division**
III. **CV Radiological Sciences Division**
IV. **1-Year Fellowship Programs**
   1. Cardiology
   2. Nuclear Medicine
   3. Medical & Clinical Laboratory

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2007
- Academic Year 2008 starts on January 1, 2008

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Board Exam Rating
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation with present employer, thesis adviser, and professional society (if applicable)
5. Valid ID (i.e., PRC / school ID)

Please address your application letter to:

ARMANDO G. PAYLAGO, MD
Chairperson
The Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City

For complete requirements, please visit our website at www.phc.gov.ph or call us at 925-2401 to 20 local 2101 or 2102 or 2103 or 2104 or 2105 or 2106 or 2107 or 2108 or 2109 or 2110 or 2111 or 2112 or 2113 or 2114 or 2115 or 2116 or 2117 or 2118 or 2119 or 2120 or

Ludivina "Ning" Samson De Padua

U.P. Professor Emeritus

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on August 16, 2007.

Her husband Dante;
her children Lizbeth, Dan Albert & Elaine, John David & Maria Elena, Victor & Hazel, and Donald Daniel & Kristina;
her grandchildren Deirdre, David, Anton, Mikael, Jonathan, Christina, James and Bianca;
her brothers and sisters Walfredo (†) & Rosie, Sonny & Nene, Pons & Jun, Chi & Poy, and Edgardo & Gina;
and her nephews and nieces
request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Resurrection Chapel, St. Therese Church, U.P. Los Baños.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 21, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- Female, Between 21-26 years old
- Nice appearance
- With experience in Brand Designing
- Must be knowledgeable in Illustrator and Photoshop
- Must be creative, hardworking, trustworthy and able to work under minimal supervision

Attractive salary & benefits awaits the successful applicant

Please bring resume with 2x2 picture, transcript of records & portfolio and apply personally at:

Blooming Handkerchief Mfg. Corp.
#3 Sgt. Rivera St.
Quezon City
(Tel. # 361-3833; 361-3355)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PIMA ECOSS INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as an **Expanding Export Producer of Garments** with a capacity of 10,000 dozen per annum at **the Pimas Bldg.** with project site/area located within Lgy. Aguila St. Cor. Road Lot Pilar City.

Any person with valid objections on the above mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(sgd.) **RICO B. GARA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PEN - Aug. 18, 2007)

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Security Appliances/Firearms
and Mini Vans (Lessors)

The undersigned, Head, Bids and Awards Committee, through its Chair, invites qualified contracting entities to apply for and bid for the following Supply and Delivery of Security Appliances/Firearms and Mini Vans (Lessors) under the modality of Competitive Bidding in accordance with Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Lot No.	Particulars	No. of Unit(s)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Security Appliances/Firearms	40	1,000,000.00
2	Mini Vans (Lessors)	2 UNIT	1,000,000.00
	TOTAL		2,000,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The NFA now invites Bidders from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of the said one (Bidders) Competitive Bidding in accordance with RA 9184 and its IRR. Interested Bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, cooperatives, and partnerships or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1594 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138, as provided for under Letter of Instruction (LOI) 630, and to the extent provided for in Section 5 (b) of RA 5183, as amended by PD 1899, and subject to Commonwealth Act 138, as provided for under Letter of Instruction (LOI) 630, and to the extent provided for in Section 5 (b) of RA 5183, as amended by PD 1899.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NFA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of Cash, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Cashier's Check. The Procuring Entity shall not be responsible for bids not received on the time of the deadline specified in the Bidding Documents.

Form of Security	Amount (in Philippine Peso) Equivalent of 10% of the ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	Five and a half percent (5.5%)
Surety Bond callable upon demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company duly certified by the Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Five and a half percent (5.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive any defect or error in the bid, at any time prior to the award of the contract in the interest of the government.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO S. ARRUEJO, JR.**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
For Administrative and Human Support Services

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-5338

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **MILLER C. TANGUILAN, Officer-In-Charge, Northern Luzon Area, HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION,** has filed with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of commercial lots at the **PINESVILLE COMMERCIAL SUBDIVISION** located along Baguio-Balatoc-Philex Mines Road, Kias Barangay, Baguio City, covered by Lot 26, Block 14, Psd-CAR-001483 / TCT No. 56850; and that the registration statement and all papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest therein; and that upon proper application, copies thereof shall be furnished to such person upon payment of the proper fee.

Any person with valid objection in the registration of the project may file his/her objection in writing with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City, not later than Fifteen (15) days from the date of the last publication.

City of Baguio, Philippines, 01st day of August 2007.

(Sgd.) **REBECCA F. TORRES**
Regional Officer

(PEN - August 13 & 18, 2007)

LICENSED PHARMACIST

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JOB
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Gov't expects ₱37B from sale of stake in PNOC-EDC

Move to keep budget deficit within P63-B ceiling for 2007

By Michaela V. Rosal

THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS to raise P37 billion from a plan to sell its remaining 40-percent stake in Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC).

Terms said there were several investors who have expressed interest in buying the government's equity in PNOC-EDC, but he declined to identify them.

Terms' finance chief said that considering the required advanced fee basis, the government would likely be able to sell the asset in late October or early November.

Under the worst-case fiscal scenario projected by the Department of Finance, wherein the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs would not be able to recover from their revenue tax collection shortfalls in the first half, the government would still be able to keep its deficit within the target of P63 billion, partly because of the expected proceeds from the sale of PNOC-EDC.

In July, the government told 20 percent of its stake in PNOC-EDC after a valid another 20 percent through an initial public offering last year.

The sale in July yielded P17.1 billion in additional revenues, of which P15 billion went to state coffers and the rest to PNOC. The parent firm could have kept the entire privatization proceeds, but the national treasury agreed to it to contribute half of the revenue to state coffers to help ease the deficit.

The incremental revenues for the national government helped it post a budget surplus of P15.9-billion in July and slightly recover from a poor fiscal performance in the first half. (See story on Page B1.)

"We can easily dispose of it because of the interest among investors," Terms said. He said it was practical for the government to focus its privatization efforts on PNOC-EDC because it had a higher probability of being sold within the next three years.

Terms said rarely appointed Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes was given the courtesy of first reviewing the revenue potentials of the state-owned assets before the rest is actually made.

PNOC-EDC, established in 1976, is engaged in the business of exploring, developing, selling and marketing geothermal and other indigenous energy resources, and sole owner of the state-owned National Power Corp.

The government has adopted the policy of selling state-owned assets that are deemed better run by the private sector as first delivery of services would become more efficient and for the government to rid itself of the financial burden entailed in operating such assets.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
[illegible]

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMITS (AEPIS)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PHILIPPINE CULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL INC. [illegible]	Leung Hang	Mandarin Language Teacher
PHILIPPINE CULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL INC. [illegible]	Kuoliang Huang	Mandarin Language Teacher
PHILIPPINE CULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL INC. [illegible]	Fredel Dia	Mandarin Language Teacher
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. [illegible]	Md. Sahid Khan	Treasurer
CATALYST MICROFINANCE INVESTORS PHILIPPINES INC. [illegible]	Tom Hsiu-Lianmin	Vice President
JUST TEXTILE FINISHING CORP. [illegible]	Chiang Yu	Mechanical Consultant
JUST TEXTILE FINISHING CORP. [illegible]	Shiow Ho	Technical Consultant
GLAXOSMITHKLINE PHILIPPINES, INC. [illegible]	Robert Kelly	Head, Consumer Healthcare Additional and Philippines
HI TOON PA CORP. [illegible]	Jung Woo Kim	Finance Manager
SOL SEAFOOD PHILKOR RESTAURANT CORP. [illegible]	Chaiwan Lee	Executive Chef
MCGARRY'S RESTAURANT [illegible]	Chengjun Xu	Chef Cook
KU JA JP RESTAURANT CO. [illegible]	Kuihen Kwoon	Supervisor
SM CASH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INCORPORATED [illegible]	Kuimen Tsoi Ki-Shien	Vendor Manager III
AMERICAN CHATLINE, INC. [illegible]	Kwelin Wang Shelly	Treasurer
SYNTRON DEVELOPMENT INC. [illegible]	Sungwoo Heo	Marketing Manager
BASE CAMP INTERNATIONAL TOUR INC. [illegible]	Kyong Hwa Ha	Director
OFFSHORE C&C II MANAGEMENT INC. [illegible]	Vincent Nguyen	President
SAN DIEGO RESTAURANT [illegible]	Lai Yick Jeremy	General Manager
TSUKUCOSE BLUE TRAVEL UNE INC. [illegible]	Sawmon Chin	Chief Operation Officer
E'HANCHEE ENTERPRISE INC. [illegible]	Fong Jie Chet	General Manager
TSUKUCOSE BLUE TRAVEL UNE INC. [illegible]	Bin Jung Hee	Treasurer/General Manager
EEP PHONE ENGLISH SYSTEM, INC. [illegible]	Byungsoo Lee	President

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned applications, please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO E. SUPAYANTE
OIC-Regional Director

The DOLE Contact Center numbers on Labor Market Analysis and Productivity. For more information, please call 526-8123 to 28/1605

(PIA - August 18, 2007)

EFFICIENCY TO CUT COSTS

Aboitiz group urges port privatization

By Rica T. Orbeta

MORE THAN TWICE TO LOW-er shipping costs, the government should focus on privatizing and modernizing the country's major ports as soon as possible, said Teodoro Aboitiz, vice president at Aboitiz and Co.

"With modernization, we can't expect much impact on overall lowering of rates, though not necessarily with respect to tariffs," Aboitiz told reporters on Thursday night.

He said the cost of transport was not just made up of the price of the tariff or the cost of the ships, but also other hard and soft efficiencies in mandated ports.

Aboitiz added that even if investment in modernization translated to an increase in tariffs or the price of services such as cargo handling, the increased efficiency would more than cushion the impact.

He added that the increased efficiency would complement the beneficial effects of the roll-on roll-off (RoRo) system.

A report by the government's Task Force on Attaining Sustainable Growth and Employment through the Roll-on Roll-off (RoRo) System revealed that the Philippines' seaborne transportation costs are considered among the highest in Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific region.

Passenger fares alone were reduced by 32 percent. The report said that before RoRo, passengers had to endure an hour-long trip from Batangas to Calapan and it took 12 hours to get to Puerto Princesa from Manila. Now, it takes only 2 hours and 7 hours, respectively.

Cargo rates were also reduced by 50 percent. For example, the cost of transporting a 10-wheeler truck from Manila to Cebu was reduced from P25,000 to P12,500 per trip.

Aboitiz said that before the RoRo system was introduced, the Philippine Merchant Marine Industry Board (PMMIB) would approve rates for shipping lines based on the cost of operations plus a reasonable return on investment.

"The PMMIB would look at the cost of operations of the shipping lines and add a reasonable return on investment. Because of this, there was no incentive for the shipping lines to lower their rates," he said.

Aboitiz said that the RoRo system has changed the PMMIB's role from rate-setting to rate-monitoring.

"Now, the shipping lines are free to set their rates, but the PMMIB monitors them to make sure that they are not charging unreasonable rates," he said.

Aboitiz said that the RoRo system has also encouraged shipping companies to improve their services to maintain their competitive edge.

Terms from the Department of Tourism, meanwhile, showed that the RoRo system boosted domestic tourism between 2000 and 2006. Passengers recorded an 8-percent jump in tourist arrivals to 347,000 in 2006 from 138,000 in 2001, attributed mainly to RoRo users. Bacolod posted an 11-percent increase to 228,000 from 105,000, while Cebu saw a 47-percent jump to 380,000 from 215,000. Iloilo recorded a 77-percent jump in arrivals in the same two-year period to 400,000 from 150,000.

"The most important effect of modern ports is efficiency. If a shipper can get his ship to sail in three hours instead of 12, that is huge savings in the cost of shipping, the cost of trucks, cargo handling, such as on. The effect is widespread," Aboitiz said.

WESM operator to improve surveillance system

By Abigail L. Ho

TO PREVENT WHOLESALE electricity spot market (WESM) participants from engaging in anti-competitive practices, market operator Philippine Electricity Market Corp. will be beefing up its surveillance and monitoring activities.

In his report on the electricity market's first year in operation, PEMC president Lanzi Balquinton said that one of PEMC's plans this year is the establishment of systems and procedures for the detection, at close to real-time, of "abnormal market outcomes."

The new system, he said, would enable PEMC to determine specific anti-competitive behaviors or practices of the bid players.

PEMC also moved to improve its surveillance tools and monitoring to ensure the efficiency and competitiveness of the market, he said.

"The market operator's "Beam-ind penalty manual" would therefore be revised to consolidate [with] industry stakeholders," he added.

PEMC's market surveillance committee (MSC) last year heard the state-run Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. guilty of anti-competitive behavior for abusing its market power in the WESM, ensuring prices to each daily spike during the Aug. 23-Sept. 25 trading month.

Following deliberations, it was determined then PSALM, with its four trading hours and control over half of the electricity traded on the spot market, had indeed abused its market power during peak hours of that trading month.

The MSC said PSALM made "offers of unusually high, similar price bids on the third month of the WESM's market operation."

Due to the spike in WESM prices that month, consumers were almost subjected to higher generation charges, if not for PEMC's implementation of an administered price for that month. Instead, consumers got the blue-ribbon rates of National Power Corp.

The Energy Regulatory Commission, however, pending its own investigations, brought prices at a level at par with Napocor's TOU rates.

The regulatory body later ordered PSALM GP price manipulation charges, saying it found no prima facie evidence to start its own investigation on the matter.

The proposed P546.8M to demand payment of almost P9 billion from power buyers in the electricity bourse.

The total amount PSALM is demanding represented the price difference between the actual payments for energy traded in the third and fourth billing months (June to Dec.7 billion) and the amount actually due to PSALM based on the actual clearing prices (P3.8 billion), plus the corresponding value-added tax (almost P1.2 billion) and interest based on Napocor's non-zero lending rate (P546.4 million).

Luzon power users should know themselves for an additional charge of P2.46 per kilo-watt-hour if the PSALM succeeds in collecting this amount.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., Back Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 920-1014 / 9240-00; www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Electric Generator and Refrigerant Recovery Machine

LOT NO.	Particulars	No. of units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Electric Generator	1	[illegible]
2	Refrigerant Recovery Machine	1	[illegible]
	TOTAL		[illegible]

Delivery Period: [illegible]

Source of Funds: [illegible]

Bidding Documents: [illegible]

Bid Security: [illegible]

Pre-Bid Conference: [illegible]

Opening of Bids: [illegible]

Evaluation: [illegible]

Post-Qualification: [illegible]

Award of Contract: [illegible]

Contract Signing: [illegible]

Liquidated Damages: [illegible]

Warranty: [illegible]

Inspection and Acceptance: [illegible]

Payment: [illegible]

Contact Person: [illegible]
Address: [illegible]
Telephone No.: [illegible]
Fax No.: [illegible]
e-mail address: [illegible]
Website: [illegible]

Engr. Rodrigo L. Hernandez, Jr.
Deputy Administrator, Operations Group
For: Ma. Lourdes M. Aquino
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PIA - August 18, 2007)

Gov't posts . . .

From page B1

The seven-month deficit also stunned the deficit of P41 billion recorded as of such June.

Due to shortfalls in revenue collection by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and of Customs in the budget gap in the first half breached the P63.5-billion ceiling set for the period. The misdemeanors that the government might post a full-year deficit higher than the P63-billion target.

"We were fortunate in July because of the proceeds of the sale of PNOC-EDC that contributed to overall revenues," Terms said. He was referring to the sale of another 20 percent of the government's remaining stake in Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. that generated P15 billion for the national government.

Of the P564 billion in revenues in July, P68.7 billion was accounted for by taxes collected by the BIR. The tax agency's collections surpassed its target of P57.9 billion for the month, making the bill slightly sooner from its shortfall in the first six months.

Tax collections in the July brought the BIR's total revenues in the first seven months to P314 billion. The BIR is tasked to collect P568.4 billion for the entire year.

The Bureau of Customs accounted for P203 billion of total revenue collections, surpassing its goal of P176.06 billion for the month when a similar dismal performance in the first half. This brought the BOC's seven-month collection to P511 billion. The BOC is tasked to collect P1,013 billion for the entire year.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects dividends from state-owned firms, contributed P8.4 billion to total revenues. Other government offices collected P19.1 billion.

Government expenditures of P392.4 billion in July were lower by P17.7 billion than the P410.1 billion programmed for the month. The lower than-budget spending for the month was largely due to savings from interest payments.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the aim for the 91-day treasury bills averaged at 3.10 percent in the five series months compared to the 4-5 percent assumed when officials were crafting the 2007 national budget.

According to estimates by the DOF, the national government will post a deficit of only P63.5 billion under a best-case scenario, P70 billion under a medium-case scenario, and P81 billion under the worst-case scenario.

Finance officials said the targeted privatization of more state assets in the remaining months of the year would also prepare for the shortfalls in tax collection in the first half.

But economists cautioned that a single month's performance did not make a trend. They said turbulence on global markets could help up the gross domestic product to rise to P40 billion from the rate of government money borrowing August and the end of the year.

"Looking at what is happening on the region, in the global markets yesterday has been put on hold in so far as M&A is concerned, so I am not sure how the Philippines is going to push through with it," Rolando Lai, managing analyst with Informa Global Markets, said. With wire post from Reuters

State-of-the-heart technology

CUTTING-EDGE HEALTH CARE
Christine F. Limsiaco

INGSING IN THE HOSPITAL BEDS is a very challenging. With patients' lives on the line, the stakes are high. You need to take your job seriously, especially if you work for a hospital with a culture of perfection and a boss, Jose F. C. Ledesma, who is a staunch advocate of patient safety. The nurses and staff are trained to be sure and safety is what drives Dr. Lake's Medical Center to aggressively acquire state-of-the-art medical equipment, continuously develop procedures and consistently monitor health care outcomes.

The personnel have responded with the kindred of hearts. Dr. Hendrikus B. Gallema, vice interventional, is establishing St. Luke's Heart Institute. The Heart Institute, the Philippines' first private cardiac facility and the model for St. Luke's other Centers of Excellence, is one of Dr. Gallema's leading projects. Filipino patients with cardiovascular diseases. Twenty-one years after it was established, the heart institute, now under the global stewardship of Dr. Antonio Trinidad Jr., has provided hundreds of thousands of patients with the best and most up-to-date treatment modalities.

Constant monitoring

St. Luke's puts a high premium on constant monitoring of quality of care and safety. Every Tuesday afternoon, St. Luke's medical director Dr. Joyce Canlapan convenes the hospital Performance Improvement Council and meets with the hospital's medical and administrative heads to ensure that all St. Luke's patients receive optimal care that results in the best possible treatment outcomes.

We are grateful that our efforts at raising the bar of patient care have not gone unnoticed. In November 2005, St. Luke's Medical Center became the first hospital in the Philippines and only the second in Asia to receive ICI accreditation.

Thank you for saving the life of my husband," said Pernelita Bautista-Abcede in her keynote speech during the Heart Institute's 21st anniversary celebration.

Cardiovascular surgical experts

President Arroyo thanked Dr. Jules Cesare Cervantes who after a thorough examination concluded that First Gentleman's problem was a serious heart condition and not a simple gastrointestinal one as initially suspected. She also thanked the Heart Institute's team of cardiovascular surgical specialists headed by Dr. Ricardo Lim.

"You brought my husband back from the brink of death," said the President.

In April 2007, the First Gentleman flipped in for an interventional high-risk procedure to prep to repair a leaky valve in his aorta. The 10-hour operation required the significant lowering of Mr. Arroyo's body temperature to prevent organ damage and the temporary stoppage of the blood circulation to rest the body to enable his multidisciplinary team of cardiovascular and surgical experts to perform the life-saving operation.

The President proudly announced that less months after undergoing risky open heart operation, the First Gentleman has taken golf. "When I left Malacañang this morning, he was on his weekend." Thanks to the advice of doctors at the Heart Institute, the First Gentleman has put together and is implementing a personalized healthy lifestyle regimen, she added.

Better equipped

President Arroyo noted that St. Luke's is better equipped than 95 percent of US hospitals. "I know that St. Luke's was the first hospital in South-east Asia and the only one in the Philippines to acquire a PET scanner. Typically you know how hospitals that have PET scanner ... but you have your own excimer machine which I had the privilege of using during my executive checkup."

In his opening remarks during the anniversary celebration, St. Luke's president and CEO Jose F. C. Ledesma lauded the Heart Institute's staff for their pioneering open-heart surgery, coronary angioplasty and working with a 3-Positron Emission Tomo-graphy machine, which is only available with three of the world's best medical centers.

Maintaining info system

Ledesma also congratulated Dr. Felix Enrique Wong, chief of the Institute of Interventional Cardiology and chair of the Cardiovascular Research Unit, for maintaining the country's first and only Cardiovascular Disease Information System (CVDIS), which collects clinical and procedure-specific information from all patients encounters at the Institute starting 2005.

As of June 2007, the system has compiled 117,347 procedural records of 90,000 patients, with the ultimate goal of providing quality-controlled cardiovascular data that is safe, effective, efficient and timely.

The "state-of-the-heart" technology at St. Luke's Cardiac ER will also be available in St. Luke's Bonifacio Global City.

To increase public awareness on and understanding of the benefits of technology and its role in medical care, "Cutting-Edge Health Care" is working with the Healthcare Technology and Outcomes Information Bureau headed by veteran broadcaster-linguist Pat Aquino. The bureau also aims to inform and update the medical community and members of the media about the latest medical technologies and how these help improve healthcare.

Christine F. Limsiaco is the senior vice president for Strategic Marketing and Corporate Affairs of St. Luke's Medical Center. For inquiries, please e-mail the chairman's technology watch bureau via pressbureau@stluke.com or fax to 723-0101 loc. 5402.

With antiretrovirals, couples with HIV can have virus-free kids

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR HER A PHOTO IN HER laptop, two little blonde girls in their colorful finery dress twinned back at Bel-Chateau Greyling, a South African who has been living with HIV for two decades now.

The girls are his daughters and they are nine-three the 41-year-old parent revealed.

"My 11 year old, Jess," said Greyling, a global HIV and AIDS activist who was in Manila recently to give workshops during the four-day launch of the country's Development Foundation Philippines on the virus.

Thanks to the works of retroviruses (ARV) drugs that lower the viral load in the blood to undetectable levels, allowing him to have two healthy children without infecting his wife, Liza, who remains HIV-free up to now.

Greyling and his wife are profiled in three who are in the first stages of HIV infection, according to Dr. Jose Gerard Belleza, medical officer of the National AIDS program of the Department of Health's Infectious Disease Office.

"Not all people living with HIV are to undergo treatment," the kind of treatment. Normally, this is prescribed to those who are in Stage 3 or Stage 4 of HIV. Belleza said the Department is a phrase for them.

But in Greyling's case, he chose to undergo ARV treatment five years ago despite accidentally getting his wife infected with the virus during their honeymoon without getting her wife infected, he explained.

"At that time, I could have gone on with my basic practice of avoiding ARV treatment but we wanted to have children and we couldn't wait any longer [considering our age]," he said.

Infected

Greyling, a hemophiliac, was infected HIV during an eye surgery in 1984. He was infected with the blood concentrate he needed to prevent profuse bleeding during the operation.

According to him, the concentrate turned out to be contaminated. His wife was not so lucky to be infected HIV, the way Liza was to marry Liza's ex-wife Monika to catch by gay sexual-type during the four-day launch of the Philippine Development Foundation Philippines on the virus.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Hangosang

Shedding extra pounds that goes beyond cosmetics

By Charlie E. Rebar

HAZEL ZAMORA, 28, doesn't mind being called huge or the names that accompany it. She doesn't even mind being limited to donning oversized clothing.

But what made her decide to do something about her 273-pound frame was when even walking was already becoming a tedious task or bending down to pick up things already a struggle.

"Being obese runs in my family. This fact did not escape my mother who even told me to stop eating to progress when I was young. It did not work and as I went to college, I ballooned drastically to an extent that my waistline was already in the upper 40 inches," she recalled.

Having also tried taking specialized diet meal taking slimming pills in the past, Zamora decided to seek professional advice for a more effective and long-lasting result.

Type 2 obese

"When I first met her a year ago, she was already a type 2 obese, running with her weight and height of 5'4" her body mass index is already above 40 (currently 41.8)," said Dr. Edward Oliveros of St. Luke's Medical Center and who is one of the bariatric surgeons of the Bitch Lap-Band Centers at the Medical Plaza Building (22nd floor) in Makati City where Zamora went to.

The BMI is one method of determining if one is obese or just overweight. This is done by dividing the person's weight in kilograms by his or her height in meters squared.

A normal BMI is in the range of 18.5 to 24.9 while one is already overweight if his or her BMI reaches above 25 but no 29.9 while those with a BMI of 30 up to 34 are classified type 1 obese. A BMI of 35 to 39 fall under type 2 obese category.

Exceeds energy usage

"Ultimately, it does boil on an excess of total body fat, which results when one takes in more calories per day than what the body burns. Bariatricians have determined that the body normally requires 2,000-2,500 calories per day to maintain normal functions. If one takes in two more but does not burn it through physical activities, problems starts to appear. In fact, when one reaches a BMI that goes beyond 35, he or she is already risking a lot health-wise," Oliveros reminded.

He added that of the 200 million obese diagnosed worldwide, an estimated 1.11 million still develop serious health problems such as diabetes, hypertension, irregular menstrual cycle, heart disease, stroke, sleep apnea, hypertension, uterine bone and back pain, cancer and metabolic syndrome that may cause sudden and unexplained death.

"I was given several choices and what appealed to me was the Lap-Band system, which is a little drastic but a surgery that will not require stomach stapling or cutting of the intestines like some other weight loss option I was presented with," Zamora.

Worked well

Oliveros admitted that although type 2 obese individuals will have difficulty losing excess weight, he was glad that the surgical option worked well for Zamora.

"She currently weight 141 lb and still losing 6 to 14 lb 6 week since her surgery in July 2006," the doctor reported.

As its name connotes, the Lap-Band requires the implanting of an inflatable silicone band around the upper stomach to create a new, tiny stomach pouch that holds and restricts the amount of food that can be consumed. While it makes the stomach hold less food, it also induces the patient to feel full.

"Since there is no cutting, stapling, or stomach rerouting involved, and access to the band is accomplished through small incisions, it is considered the least traumatic, and least invasive of all weight loss surgeries. The laparoscopic approach to the surgery also offers the advantages of reduced post-operative pain, a shortened hospital stay, as well as quicker recovery times," described Rose Claire, head of BS & Lap-Band Centers Obesity Institute (www.laptopbands.com).

Citing a clinical study conducted in Australia, Lap-Band patients can effectively lose as much as 87 percent of their excess overweight in two years.

"There is an estimated 1 million Filipinos suffering from obesity, of which 600 thousand are morbidly obese. If we could do something about these conditions and see them here an effective way of shedding their excess weight, then we will be able to improve their lives," Chua said.

How doctors think

EUREKA!

Queenie V. Lee-Chua

Mistaken doctors make

Shira's case did not come from "Grey's Anatomy" or "House." It really happened, and now it is regularly presented as a lesson to doctors in Children's Hospital Boston. Jerome Groopman's book "How Doctors Think," Dr. Jerome Groopman of Harvard Medical School documents the errors in thinking that every doctor makes.

The surgeon-author Dr. Jerome Groopman says, will form part a person's everything, like a boy's symptoms while driving a truck. In that short time, they have to decide on the likely diagnosis and treatment, on the likely prognosis and treatment, on how much information to give to the patient, sometimes, they can be wrong, with real consequences.

Groopman describes how doctors think, and explores why they make mistakes. In Shira's case, first, her doctor had been using SCID cases, so they initially tested to match typical SCID tutors. Groopman would often have this question: "If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it's a duck." But it isn't always a duck. Doctors should remain open to other possibilities.

Second, once the diagnosis of SCID became fixed in the attending physician's mind, despite incomplete evidence, the patient was then judged by the residents, interns and transplant team. "Diagnostic momentum, like a boulder rolling down a mountain, gains enough force to overwhelming to stop."

Third, because many doctors lack the experience to deal with such a confusing case, they refused to change the diagnosis, and dismissed Sarabel's suggestions. "Why pursue such a rare and unlikely diagnosis when you have a case of the malnourished child." But not everything is known about the effect of malnutrition on the body. Rachel was not a clone, but she enhanced herself and refused to be deserted.

Memorable cases

In the book, Groopman describes memorable cases, from chest pain and spine failure to gluten allergies and colon cancer. From interviews with prominent doctors (all mentioned by name), the diagnostic failures in these cases and treatment can lead them astray, and how the forces of marketing and money can hurt us.

Best of all, Groopman gives us tips to help us not only as doctors, but also as patients. We should ask, "What else could my sickness be? Is there anything that does not fit? Can I have more than one problem?" Sometimes we should report even, or get second opinions. When a doctor does not give in full attention, then we should change doctor.

"How Doctors Think" should be required reading in medical school. It is also for all of us who are concerned with our health and our lives.

"How Doctors Think" (Houghton and Mifflin, 2007) is available in selected National Bookstore branches.

Fuel for thought

DISCOVER

Maxcie Santos Ballon

WHAT CAN FUEL CARS, BUT JUST DIESEL IN THE BIG TANK? A issue of the Journal Biotechnology Progress, chemical engineers at scientific Institute and the colleagues at the University of Manchester in England describe a relatively energy-efficient process to convert ethanol into bioethanol. While help it can reverse the fuel-versus-food debate, the University of Patras in Greece, the scientists hope that this new technique will help increase biofuel production in Europe, which is now a net importer of fuel.

One can use diesel fuels by using crops such as rubber and roots as sources of biofuels, however, is that they weren't designed to feed cars. For those of you looking for it, that isn't on the list of good biofuel crops. Many instead about what could happen if rice farmers someday decide that biofuel crops are more profitable to grow and switch away wheat and rice. Same been to drive for high food prices around the world for people and livestock. Using such food crops as fuel crops not only raises questions about who is first,...people or vehicles?...but also how much it costs to turn those grains into gas.

3 major steps

The process of converting plants into biofuels involves three major steps, only of which has stimulated the biggest over-the-top generation. (It's been argued that people are more likely to consider the environment-friendly saving if it becomes budget-friendly to the given.) First the cellulose have to be pretreated with chemicals. Then the biomass has to be converted into sugars. Finally the sugar must be fermented in between biofuels such as methanol and ethanol. Processing biofuels in this cooking vegetables, crop vegetables, or even cooking oil into fuel requires more than those needed for a long period of time. Similarly much energy goes into making biofuels but the amount yields isn't very impressive.

Scientists and the colleagues say their method produces a kilogram of glucose sugar from wheat for approximately US$0.13. The process of making the glucose into ethanol doesn't raise the cost very much more than the fermentation process now today's work. At a means of comparison, $0.80 is about 4% by current conversion rates, and is roughly what Mexico charges gasoline per liter.

Biofuel production

In the Philippines, the food issue is avoided by using the jatropha trubes other plant. The Bureau set of 2006 and implementation of the 5 percent biodiesel, 95 percent diesel gasoline ratio has led to limited productions from jatropha and coconut, among other plants. Republic Act 9367 were calls for the State could biofuel to determine if biofuel production is sufficient to accommodate that biodiesel consume at least 10 percent of all the gasoline used nationwide last diesel this time could in the country by 2011.

Three years could be enough time to increase biofuel production in the Philippines to make the 10 percent biodiesel accommodation possible. The amount of land needed to do so bears consideration though. A recent paper from those in cited the dean of the Program for the Human Environment at New York's Rockefeller University, argued that a reality enough crops to use as biofuels the world over and very successfully. Chandler also argues that the renewable energy sources aren't actually "green" and that such as energy is, but that's simple for another time.)

In much land would be required, he says, that sooner or the environment would be dashed, so parks and forests give way to biofuel crop farms. The reason to use technique food instead of crops could be of use in the near, but if still some questions about who, or what, the farms would be feeding. This biofuels issue is, if you'll forgive the expression, food for thought.

E-mail the author at maxcie@maxcie.com

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PROPERTY

Edited by Cesar D. Hangaway

How Manila will move back to goodness

By Jacqueline Vega
Contributor

WE ARE A PREDOMINANTLY Christian country obsessed with The Sorrowful Mysteries to the exclusion of The Joyful and Glorious Mysteries. For those who are open to exploring interpretations of the Bible that accept wonderful things (i.e., beyond suffering) happening now, then it is easy to accept that goodness is... well, good.

I believe, however, that the majority of Filipinos are still stuck in the rhetoric of lack and have difficulty moving on to accepting goodness as a natural consequence for all. (That sounds like something in the American Constitution...which is not a bad thing, right?) This is not to negate our pain. If anything, we have not embraced our both past and appreciated and preserved it more. If we are to accept that good things can happen to every single Filipino, we have to act so. Our intervention have to be transmitted so they support us and are made ready to receive goodness.

Pattern of incivility

Since the sixties, the model of gated communities with Gestapo type guards has evolved to be the norm. (We started this and not the Americans). The pattern of incivility we suffered when we started seamlessly houses in the exclusive village spread throughout the archipelago.

Upliftment was easy to accept because middleclasses and apathy for our neighbor's good was grounded into us by the culture of exclusive gated villages which became the money making pattern of developers that Filipino and the foreigners bought into. It was easier to accept that they were creating their own utopia outside the messy, noisy subdivisions that at working to create living communities. Lessons of the past, which made Manila a most beautiful city, were promptly discarded with the advent of the car-oriented times and the rest, which concerned us. Comfort is a very dangerous thing to have when it is coupled with indifference and exclusivity and we have paid the price. We are a nation of billionaires on highways that are built to take us to our exclusive villages.

Recent developments in Bonifacio, Mandaluyong, are starting to point toward a more optimistic direction. We are witnessing mixed-use developments that places and cities are more than a developer's assistance plans and money making scheme.

An enlightened political leadership has a lot to do in developing a functioning living beautiful city. Thus Mandaluyong City, Quezon City is also starting to shape up.

Diversity as way of life

The interesting major cities and other lively urban centers of the world offer diversity as a way of life. What we did was go the opposite way—we embraced monotony, single-use development, segregation of income levels, etc. In short, we embraced incivility and dismantled diversity and community.

The widening gap between the rich and rest-as-rich is because we have allowed this incivility to continue unchecked for more than 50 years. The irony is that the not-so-rich, the poor, also want to live in exclusive areas when they are able to mean up in life. It is a sad perpetuating reality right now. The result is, the present scheme of things with its ugliness and poverty is a consequence of that continuous incivility and not the cause of it. To reiterate, the overpowering instinct of squatter colonies arise about because of exclusivity or exclusionary practices. The more exclusive villages we put up, the more squatter colonies we allow larger into existence elsewhere. Shifts or bans doesn't work. That is a fact.

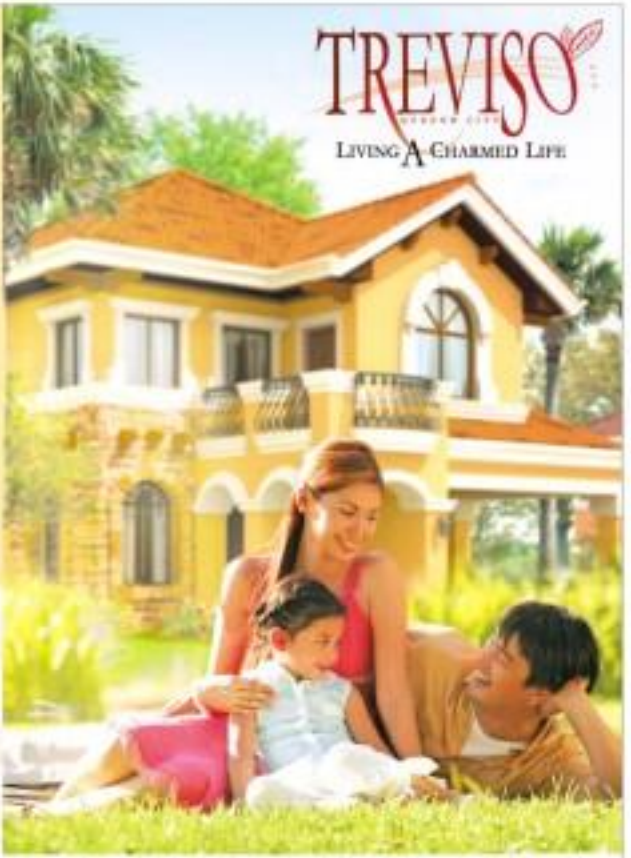
We are the cause of much of what is happening — our ignorance, our thoughtlessness and our not doing the work needed to create real communities, the different levels of existence that civilizations need to function effectively have been eliminated, creating a society of extremes—with people living isolated lives in two areas, "subdivision and condominium" and the "squatter area" colonies hidden away everywhere" (Oh, there are now smaller subdivisions that mimic the slum settlements. Nonetheless, still exclusive and exclusionary.) Our mall culture is socially sad into all of this too.

We need to make a major effort to change our attitude about exclusivity, that is, to come to grips with its destructive effect. We need to break free from the trap of thinking that things will always have to be this way. The effort requires mindful planning and working especially by those who can make a real difference in the lives of others. Only then will create a beautiful and interesting city once again. Developers hopefully will continue to move away from the mono-use and explore other models for developing their land bank.

At the existing subdivisions, if residents would sit down and discuss how they can over time work toward a more accommodating and diverse land use patterns and if we can keep our options open to accepting new ideas that generate diversity and community we can revive our economy and our city life. Till then, good luck to us!

TREVISO: A charmed Italian life in the heart of Quezon City

TREVISO
LIVING A CHARMED LIFE



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The Agritainment concept

FOR SOME TIME NOW, OUR FUTURE of economic growth has been defined by decentralizing development and bringing commercialization to the countryside. The central notion of shopping malls is perceived as the inauguration of progress for any municipality. These enclosed and air-conditioned establishments are also what many Filipinos consider as the primary destination for recreation and entertainment.

On the other hand, the concept of agritainment introduces us to another approach to boost the economy providing not just entertainment but contentment as well. It allows us a full-scale appreciation of education and enjoyment through an experience of the rural life, complete with a farm setting, housing, artisanal animals and offering several landscaping themes.

Amid the fast-paced and technology-equipped way of living in the metropolis, city-dwellers eventually long for the earthier but wise of life in the countryside. Agritainment developments can provide

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcus
ale Gutierrez, Jr.

us the virtues and surroundings to learn and understand firsthand the ecological balance and healthy lifestyle that urban living still needs to espouse.

Breaking new ground

The Agritainment concept is breaking new ground in our country. A 60,000-square-metre area has been allocated for an Agritainment Theme Park within the 415-hectare Hacienda Escudero in San Pablo, Laguna and Tiaong, Quezon. It is located within the popular tourist destination called Villa Escudero. The venue is one of the well-known villa and hacienda lifestyle tracks to expansion into a resort-set, first-class development project, intended as a leisure and tourism destination.

To be involved in translating this vision to a physical reality is an exciting challenge for us in our office, Architecture Network, and for the landscape designers, DGA Environmental Design Inc. Design work for the Pre-Admission Zone of the Agritainment Theme Park has already commenced.

The design will preserve the historical charm of Hacienda Escudero, while espousing a relaxing and rejuvenating lifestyle. The project will include the creation of the developer, Landco Pacific Corp., to showcase the richness of the country's culture and afford the personal pursuit for a firsthand experience of the truly Filipino way of life.

Critical

Planning an efficient layout and circulation is critical. The park should be able to accommodate a maximum capacity of 5,000 persons. Subcontractors are expected to come in busloads while families and small groups are equally welcome to enjoy the fun. What's more, business workshops and workshop receptions will likewise be accommodated. With a good plan, these simultaneous activities can be successfully conducted, similar to the harmonious performance of a symphonic orchestra.

The Hacienda Escudero Agritainment Theme Park will also serve as a support to the country's agricultural industry. It proposes to promote awareness and support for its public share offering. Investors and key team personally visited six global financial centers, namely Hong Kong, Singapore, London, New York, Boston and San Francisco, to promote directly to international investors.

This investment thrift, in global syndicate and international bookrunner, reported that the property firm raised $0.01 million—the largest equity offering in the history of the Philippines—with a growing demand from the entertainment market amounting to $0.01 billion.

Proceeds from the sale of shares will be used to finance capital expenditures which amounts to P7,166 billion over the next two years, seven times amounting to P1.25 billion, and set aside P966 million for operational working capital.

Growth prospects

Vista Land's growth prospects is deemed an industry success story...it

THE ENTRANCE gate of the Villa Escudero will soon welcome guests of the Agritainment development.

being one of the very few companies to have survived the Asian financial crisis in 1997, restructured its debt successfully, and final itself among the most trusted and admired brands in the industry 10 years later with a positive outlook for its future.

"In the last three years alone, we have pursued many groundbreaking developments catering to the low- and middle-income segments of the market, providing houses and building communities where others believe to be impenetrable," Ventura said.

"We seem to have a knack for identifying gaps in the market and spearheading developments that translate potentials into concrete gains. We have also been aggressively pursuing vertical developments such as seen by our efforts with Avant at The Fort and Manila at Makati. What we are offering is a unique opportunity to be a part of the cutting-edge property development firm that has established itself as a formidable leader of the industry," he/she/they declared.

Vista Land listed shares at RP Stock Exchange

VISTA LAND AND LIFESCAPES INC. marked another milestone in the company's rapid growth as its shares were listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange beginning July 26. The newly incorporated holding firm combines the strengths of Brittany Corp., Camella Homes and Communities, Crown Asia, and Communities Philippines—all acknowledged market leaders in their respective segments.

"We are very proud of our accomplishment," said Vista Land president and CEO Eric Ventura. "And together, under the banner of Vista Land, we are now the largest and leading homebuilder in the Philippines with over 100,000 homes constructed. We stand by providing value for money, assurance of reliability, a broad range of choices for various needs and needs, and the promise of a more enriched way of life."

International road show

The listing came after a very successful international road show to drum up

support for its public share offering. Investors and key team personally visited six global financial centers, namely Hong Kong, Singapore, London, New York, Boston and San Francisco, to promote directly to international investors.

This investment thrift, in global syndicate and international bookrunner, reported that the property firm raised $0.01 million—the largest equity offering in the history of the Philippines—with a growing demand from

THE SMART CHOICE IN LAMINATE & POLYCARBONATE

US to put up pavilion in Asian real estate expo

THE UNITED STATES IS PUTTING UP A pavilion at the 1st Asian Real Estate Expo and Conference (Aurec), which will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center this year.

The US pavilion in Aurec will showcase American destinations, construction products, real estate properties, systems, tools and expertise alongside those of other exhibitors from various parts of the world.

US delegation

In a statement, Aurec organizer Expo and Conference Systems Inc. (Expo) said the US Department of Commerce had begun promoting Aurec through its 105 offices worldwide after sealing its commitment to support the event.

"Sam Dibi, the Director for International Trade based in Washington DC, is now working on inviting to Aurec such organizations as the Urban Land Institute, Homebuilders Research Institute, Homebuilders Development Association, Home Builders Association, World Bank, IMF and International Housing Coalition. Promotions will be massive in their 125 offices worldwide to bring buyer and investor delegations. He plans to visit Manila in August," said Expo president Leon Kint.

He said the US would comprise a big portion of the estimated 5,000 foreign delegation to Aurec, including members of the various real estate associations and their national and international umbrella organizations.

Kint said Aurec would also be big to be by-lity College to offer a course on California Real Estate Principles. The course will qualify students to take the California real estate examination, a requirement for getting a license as an agent and broker in American several states.

Other pavilions

Designed to be the largest international real estate trade show in Asia, Aurec will also have a Philippine pavilion that will be set up by the Department of Tourism to showcase the country's investment and tourism destinations and facilities.

Other private sector but country-themed pavilions will house the exhibits of top real estate companies and property developers, government, including governors and housing institutions, construction firms, industry suppliers, manufacturers, contractors and project consolidators.

"It (Aurec) will be the show of the world!" Kint said.

Spa-inspired groundbreaking for Antel Spa Residences

IN A SOCIETY THAT HAS EMBRACED EM braced the concept of well-ness, the newest project of Antel Land Holdings Inc. recently made to preserve left in a groundbreaking ceremony that signaled the emergence of a new standard lifestyle at the new Antel Spa Residences.

The festivities, which featured a unique zen-like ambiance enhanced by fire dancing and heart-thumping drum beats, were held after inaugurating a spate from the traditional groundbreaking rites of other development firms.

Breaking new ground

"We wanted Antel Spa Residences to be viewed as only different from other traditional residential condos, because the concept behind the project—inspired by a lifestyle devoted to well-ness—is truly unique and should now take on condominium living," said Miguel Luccio, deputy director for sales.

Luccio revealed that the new 20-story Antel Spa Residences will actually be the first of four towers to be erected in a 2.5-hectare property near Makati Avenue, behind the soon-to be completed A. Venue Hotel and Residences and A. Venue Twins Mall and a fitting addition to the fast-growing Luccio district.

The strategic location of Antel Spa Residences allows future residents easy access to major thoroughfares that connect the country's chief financial and entertainment district.

Centered on wellness

He also explained that what truly sets the new tower apart from other traditional condominium towers is its adherence to well-ness inspired amenities, which include the sky infinity pools and lounge, spa amenities, meditative and organic gardens and a nature trail that goes around the property.

Aside from the wellness facilities, buyers can also expect traditional high-end luxuries, such as a business center, function rooms, grand ballrooms, coffee shop, power gym and commercial arcade.

Relaxing ambiance

The architectural design of the new tower will also be inspired by elements of nature and the relaxing spa lifestyle, using bamboo fronds, leaves and flowing pools for picturesque backdrops that evoke conducive rooms to relax the mind and body.

Condo units will also have similar thematic treatments while featuring more spacious layouts created by the seamless and cohesive design standard of Antel.

Successful formula

Luccio also explained that Antel will continue its highly successful hotel rental pool program, which it had earlier implemented for the A. Venue Residences/Residences. In this rental program, the 4-star first class hotel chain housed in the 11-to to 15th floors of the Antel Spa will be handled by renowned management group Crowne Hotels.

Owners of the unit units will enjoy the benefits of extra rental profits for the duration of the 5-year rental pool program before eventually occupying their units for personal use.

LED systems light up Takao Aoki's «Marinate» Restaurant in the Chelsea Harbor section of Manhattan

Revolutionizing approaches to lighting and design

THE LIGHTING IN ANY ROOM makes all the difference. When designing, I like playing with this special element and use it to highlight special features of a room.

I find that mixing LED lights with halogen lights creates a fantastic effect in any space. In my experience, halogen lights still work best for highlighting focal points and other elements of interest within a space because of its sharp but soft light quality. But because halogen consumes a lot of power and can get quite hot, LED makes a good supplementary light source.

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Anabel Berenguer
Architect

Special diode

LED lights are best used to continually lit areas like internal hallways, kindness, or other spaces that need to be illuminated throughout the day. In night lamps, they can be used as guide lights or floor lights for bedrooms or bathrooms that need little brightness, illuminance and other areas that need subtle lighting throughout the night.

LED is a special diode that emits light when connected to a power source. Each diode or bulb has a semiconductor "chip" inside. When an electrical voltage is applied, charges combine to emit energy in the form of light. A British lighting experiment in the 1960s led to the first modern Light Emitting Diode (LED) back then, LEDs were only able to produce monolithic, infrared light. After many years and much experimentation, brighter diodes were developed for indicator lighting and other low-light applications.

More affordable

Today, the LED technology has developed into more affordable commercial lighting fixtures and systems. While early LEDs were only bright enough to be used as indicators or as displays of such calculators and digital watches, they were recently started to appear in higher brightness applications. LED has since become very popular because it is more cost-efficient than incandescent light. It is brighter, does not get very hot, and is of very low wattage; a 5W to 6W LED fixture provides as much lighting as 50-watt incandescent bulb. Best of all, they say LEDs have a long lifespan: easily up to 10 years of lamp life.

In 1997, American company Color Kinetics revolutionized LED lighting development with a new electronic technology that can control LED diodes, thereby generating millions of colors and a myriad of lighting effects. This technology of adding intelligence to LED devices was unprecedented. In my first encounter with LED, what intrigued me the most was its programmable aspect. If electrical lighting design is a higher level of subtlety, if it is used is designed to work with lighting as though a room a dance or a poem, thanks to LED's ability to create color and rhythm.

Defining metro skyline

In major cities of the world, LED is used to light up commercial buildings and define the skyline of the metropolis. In Hong Kong's daily sunset and lights show, buildings show off a kaleidoscope of colored lights, laser beams and searchlights. Inspired precisely by the LED technology in Las Vegas, bright lights in this big city showcase interpretation under cool by LED. The glass domicile and investment of designers, makers and others under Taipei area are those live up to its name as the City of Lights.

In our local design community, LED technology has been used with caution due to its prohibitive cost. Nonetheless, it has slowly crept into both residential and commercial applications. With the rising cost of power, environmental issues and our resource running to create more, LED technology is the best on for this presentation's new approach to lighting and design.

Everyday resort living at Amalfi

EVERYONE APPRECIATES COMing home after a stressful day in the office and would love to spend weekends bonding with family. The country's premier developer of master-planned, themed communities with bordering style which remaining true to the needs of Filipino families, Crosscreek looks a new definition to relaxation within the journey of your residence and finds the accessibility of your community with its exclusive, resort-inspired design, Amalfi at The Islands in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

A proud affiliate of Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc., Crosscreek specifically designed the enclave of Amalfi and its homes to possess an ambiance evocative of memorable to Compania. Only what's the famous resort of the world's most desirable recreational destinations. Vista Land is the Philippines' largest horse-builder offering homes for all to come upwards, and catering to different lifestyles across the country.

Opportunities to relax

Amalfi is exclusively situated within The Islands, a 500-hectare collection of exclusive developed by Ramsay Corp. together with Crosscreek. The Islands boasts of world-class landscaping which provides the feel of living in a resort all year round in Amalfi. The entire community is known with lush landscaping and pocket parks for encourage leisurely walks enjoying the view and breathing of fresh air.

Residents are welcomed into the 24-hectare property by a meandering road lit, relaxed dining and a grand veranda with various water fountain features.

Six house models from the new Luciano Bonus Series ranging from a floor area of 60m² to 150 sq m on a 120 to 210 sq m lot is currently offered to give ample room for starting a family and with room space for growing ones. Residing in your desired community is made affordable with financing options beginning at P 13,100 a month.

Strategic location

Amalfi's architects to prime-sit is situated and features contact it a most ideal enclave to begin a family and raise children. St. Paul's College is located right inside The Islands while De La Salle University and Emilio Aguinaldo College in Dasmariñas are just a few minutes away. Cavite also has business and commercial centers like SM and Robinsons, and presents golf resorts to complement your upwardly mobile lifestyle.

The newly opened entrance of Amalfi on Molino-Salgados highway (can Aguinaldo Highway and South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) entrance on).

For prospect's interest, call 873-1467-8 and 871-1942-2 or log on to www.crosscreek.com.ph.

Twin tower condo to spice up P. Ocampo area

By Charlie E. Baker

THE AREA OF P. OCAMPO (TORRES, Vito Cruz) Street and M. Adriatico in Malate is home to Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, considered as the oldest sports complex in Asia.

Another landmark will soon rise in this area. It is a 42-story twin tower residential condominium development by Malden Group of Companies.

Consisting of 4,000 square meter property right in front of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, The Grand Towers will offer a total of 1,000 (studio, two- or three-bedroom) units with prices starting at 1.4 million.

According to Malden Group, the project targets mid- up families as well as students and young professionals who put affordability, location and overall package high on their list.

The project will offer one floor full of condominium facilities and amenities to be located at the 3,000 sq.m. Grand Podium Deck.

Spice up

According to Malden, The Grand Towers will definitely spice up Vito Cruz area, thanks to the project's modern architecture and first-class amenities and facilities.

Aside from the lush gardens punctuating strategic areas of the Grand Podium Deck, air conditioned and solar-heated spa, a reading lounge, safe children's playground, fully equipped fitness center and an expansive multi-purpose hall will make up the recreational area of the building.

Malden Group added that the ground floor will be filled with commercial units plus the residents will get to enjoy a Wi-Fi enabled study area and 520-service concierge.

The Grand Towers is very strategically considering its proximity to some of Manila's finest schools, business districts, commercial and entertainment centers.

Model units are on display at Malden (at fax (632) 2670) at the ground floor of Golden Key Street located at the corner of Pedro Burgos and Roxas Boulevard in Ermita, Manila.

THE GRAND Towers is a new landmark that will soon rise on P. Ocampo Sit next right across Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

The Shape of Things to Come: Rockwell Gears Up for Expansion

There is a place in the Philippines where everything is superb—the spacious streets are lined with lush greenery, the gleaming residential towers have upmarket facilities and environment amenities for leisurely, luxurious living, and electric power is virtually uncanny at 24 hours a day. There's much, all year round, and even during concrete summer months.

Sounds like a metropolis in the first World? It does. Welcome to the Rockwell Center, a pioneering luxury development in the heart of Makati, Metro Manila's central business district.

Developed by Rockwell Land Corp. (Rockwell), the premier community was begun in 1995, transforming a former thermal power plant site into a new living environment that integrates residential, office, educational, commercial, recreation and entertainment components. All contained, commercial developers like those with a keen for the finest things in life.

Now, Rockwell has gotten into a solid and robust property development becoming synonymous with the qualities that it has instilled in its various properties: excellence, innovation and the drive to deliver the best.

Rockwell's achievements are founded on its dedication to the highest possible standards—from projects, to its services and to its people. The company took in all facets of development, from design and construction to marketing and property management of each project. The company's commitment to excellence has created homes on the Rockwell standard.

Recognized as employing exemplary professionals in the field, the premier property developer understands that its employees are the greatest strength of the Rockwell community and the company values reliability and dependability. This has earned the company its functioning size of the country's most iconic benchmarks for quality, value creation and reliability.

Now, with the master plan of the Rockwell Center almost fully implemented, Rockwell turns its sights into some pioneer and active new opportunities on a grand, up-to scale.

More recently, Rockwell, in partnership with parent company Megaworld, the Philippines' largest diversified property developer set out to develop a business process outsourcing (BPO) complex to the fringes business district. The project is only one of the many components of a new mixed-use town city development that has been mapped out for the Metro Strategic property.

Having secured its position among those developers for the high-end segment in the country, Rockwell is well poised to bring its signature into places where it can replicate its flagship project.

> Rockwell, a truly Filipino corporation, continually enhances its brand equity as it steadily expands its business

The company is now in the final stages of negotiations for several joint venture deals with property owners of prime sites in the growing secure private, mixed-use and commercial communities similar to the Rockwell Center.

Rockwell, a truly Filipino corporation, continually enhances its brand equity as it steadily expands its business.

With a sustained annual growth rate of 25-30 % for the past five years and stabilized income-generating investments, Rockwell's financial position has been solid and secure. It is poised to take itself into an even higher place as it takes the most necessary to become a publicly-listed company, integrated in its overall plan of diversifying its ownership base and sharing the benefits of its success.

Indeed, the design offerings at every turn look to underscoring the Rockwell. With more than a decade's experience in developing prime property, Rockwell is well positioned to embark on developing more pieces of real estate in the Philippines where everything is simply superb.

Need space? Find all the space you need in your own Z-Loft.

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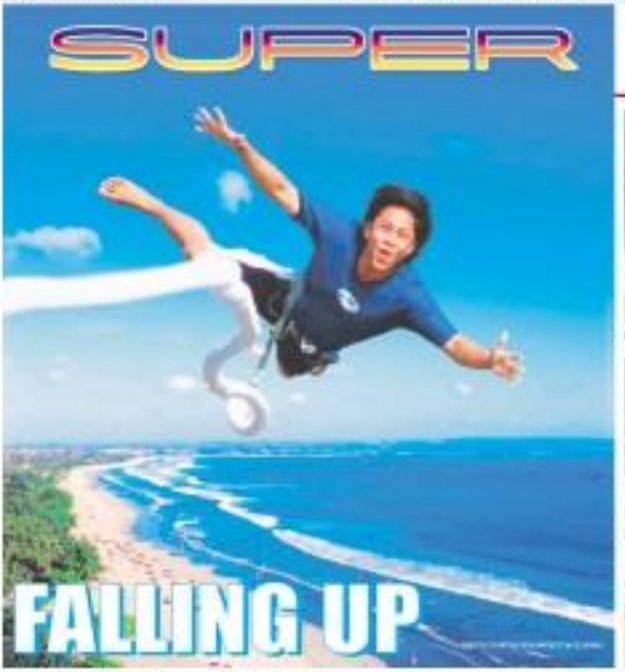

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LEMPAY LIZARDO: Bungee pioneer AJ Hackett

When in doubt, just bungee jump.

OUT THE WINDOW

Tats Diaz

"All growth is a leap in the dark, a spontaneous, unprecedented act without benefit of experience." – Henry Miller

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL when insanity had taken over logic.

But there we were, three friends standing on the edge of a tower at nightfall, a hundred and thirty five feet above a tropical island in the southern hemisphere.

Down up there we could see everything – the Indian Ocean surrounding our little island in the middle of sky. The orange lights glowing like fallen constellations on the Balinese rooftops. The countless stars scattered wildly above.

Distances, spaces, height and depth, mathematical equations interpreted as the exquisite moment as one freaking beautiful world. There was only one thing left to do – jump.

A HISTORY OF CHEATING

Just what is it that possesses patently sane human beings to name-it-shout-it-leap? Take the case of New Zealander AJ Hackett, who has the honor of taking that first public leap of faith from Auckland's iconic Sky Tower in 1986, successfully misdiagnosing death because he was strapped to a bungee cord. Hackett since did it several times more. Even other bridges and high structures, including the Eiffel Tower. From this madness was born an extreme sport that spread all over the world, including Australia, France, Germany, Malaysia and Indonesia.

We all catch madness in bouts from our logic-in, per-physics-to be exact. The bungee, which a Riwi slang for "elastic strap" works as a giant rubber band. The bungee cord is considerably shorter than the height of the structure to allow it to stretch and absorb the energy of the fall. When the person who's hesitation in the bungee cord jumps, the cord stretches to its limit and then snaps back up. The motion goes on, until the energy is used up. The thrill of speed varies depending on the jumper's distance from the earth. Applying gravitational laws, the greater the distance, the faster the rate of acceleration.

Hmm ... so again I ask, just what the f*** is it that possesses sane people to do this again?

LEAP OF FATE

It was time to find out.

As I was the first to get strapped to the bungee cords (because I lost a game of "Ta-

FOLLOW TO

Raising healthy kids while your spouse is away

Raising kids is not an easy task. What more if your spouse is working abroad? There are kids to care, work to attend to, and a home to maintain. The good news is, not all villages in life are hard to do, like keeping your children healthy.

First—Athlete's Foton is important. That's why you need to take care of their health so that they grow up bright and strong. This can only be achieved with a healthy diet. Eating food with Zinc and Iron is a good way to start.

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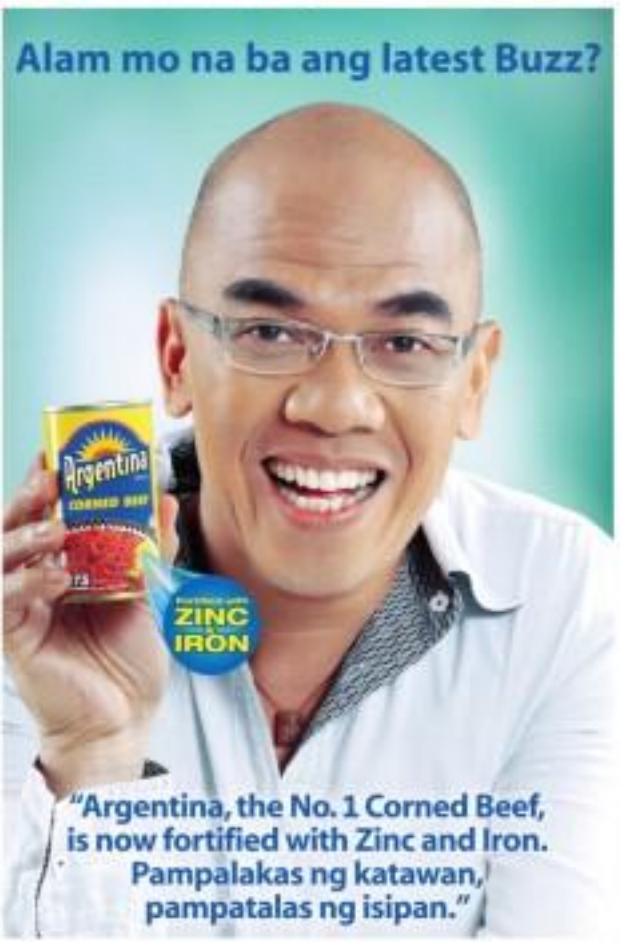

Split second

By James Galvillo

A FRIEND ONCE told me that peace is the fruit of war, of struggle. Like in writing fiction, I wonder how much explanation we should give.

The people behind this section have all encountered huge changes. Things are much better now, and it's great to see that the end, understanding prevailed. In one way or another, I think we've all grown to humble.

I feel awkward whenever some people would approach and praise the way we handled everything—but I don't think we deserve the applause. In the end, it was about duty. We did what we were supposed to do. We awakened the complicity and ended up with a stronger characters. Definitely, the only cowardly refusal to battle us or not to get reminded. We know that just to struggle is a victory.

The fact that we're here—alive and doing our travels—is second. But it's still given to us. But much more will be expected, I know. I'd be lying if I say that I'm not watching my steps, but at the back of my mind, I'm thinking that I'd rather make mistakes than appear like a mere ball who's, in reality, under big cries.

All this is nothing if we don't share it to you. I know that it's one thing for us to make you read, and it's another to make you care. It would be nice if you can help us find that perfect thread that would connect us—one in person, because really, in the end, we want you to get something out of this section.

Right now there are so many things to grapple with, and it's exciting. Similar to a farmer who has to sacrifice in order to remain in his upright direction, I know I can't cut too much to create at the moment. Personally, I'm not promising anything spectacular. I can assure you though that this space will not be used to spread this generation's thirsty to change glitter, or on things that would harm one's soul. Besides dwelling just under the surface—that's what I'm going to look for in the people I'll be featuring in the editions.

I can assure you that we're putting a little bit more love in the things that we do here in these pages, and because of that we're finding this uncontrollable, unexplainable sense of joy while working—and that, I think, makes the big difference.

Now or Never(land)

FIFTEEN YEARS BEfore a fictitious character named Jim Hawkins would gunned him down in 1907, a 24-year-old Che Guevara hopped on the back seat of a beat-up motorcycle and embarked on an eight-month odyssey across South America.

The journey—which was chronicled in his ravishing spiritual memoir "Diarios de motocicleta," and later adapted into a film ("The Motorcycle Diaries") by Brazilian director Walter Salles—transforms a brooding, asthma-stricken bed-wetter to the most famous hero-turning revolutionary of the 20th century.

Even though the 2004 film diminished his evolution from a cuppy Argentinian student to a ruthless Latino guerrilla, it did leave viewers with the notion that personal journeys, especially sojourns of the reality-bending sort, are transformative.

As we saw with the young Ernesto Che, straddling the invisible border between youth and the limbo called young adulthood is never an easy place to be. In the beginning, there is always a nagging desire to drop everything behind and take a first class flight to your own private Neverland, where you can hook up with your old buddy Peter and his delinquent gang of lost boys.

The airfare, after all, is dirt cheap. All you need is a little baggage of fairy dust and a deliberate desire to get headed on hoppy thoughts.

The over-hyped hoopla over your arrival can be scrumptious, and occasionally addicting. Most often than not, you'll be treated by your non-responsibilities to ditch your dog-eared passport and wish that suffocating return ticket to reality.

Life is sweet in this secluded wonderland, you tell yourself, hardly aware that your grasp on the real world has slowly slipped away. But somewhere along the way, you get tired of dealing with dodgy pirates, possessive mermaids, rogue fairies, and hungry crocodiles. And the prospect of swashbuckling with Captain Hook is never a pleasant encounter.

Eventually, the complex games of Peter and your gang of lost boys begin to lose their allure, and you realize that this once bewildering business of growing up might not be so bad after all.

Change is inevitable, and coming face to face with reality can be a real pain in the ass. But, nonetheless, the only way to move forward is to take a step back. Even if that means getting out on a dusty motorcycle ride across a rough continent, or trying towards this "second star to the right, straight on till morning."

Illustration by CJ de Silva

Change of fools

By Pam Pastor

"He who rejects change is the architect of decay. The only human institution which rejects progress is the cemetery."
—Harold Wilson

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE on this planet, I've had a long history with change.

I worked into some changes with the expenses of a naive teenager. Hair color, shoe size, technology, Prom, abandonment, following many people into my world.

Difficult

Some changes, although difficult, I still tried to welcome. Graduation, open arms. My generous upbringing up when I was 12. Having to give up the house.

I grew up in the house my grandfather built. Taking in my almost-Dutch Oma university life when we decided to go to a temperate condition in sanity. Friends moving away. My brother quitting my band.

It didn't take me a long time to learn that the hardest changes to face are the ones that are beyond your control, the ones that hit you exceedingly from out of nowhere. These are the changes that make you feel as though the rug has been pulled from under your feet, the changes that leave you sprawled on the ground, wondering how the hell you will get up.

But because change is a great teacher—and because you really are left with no choice—I kept getting back up.

Getting up

There were times when getting up meant taking a deep breath and pretending to pour Jose alone. And there were others when getting up meant being surrounded by people who did not just cheer you on but actually pulled you up and helped you see that change can actually be a really good thing.

This series has gone through a lot of changes the past few months. Some changes were a surprise. And others we got over the shock of those changes, we started planning our own positive ones.

Those are the changes you're actually reading now the past weeks—and they would not be possible if it weren't for the passion of the Super team, the enthusiasm of our contributors and the dedication of the people working behind the scenes.

Not done

We're not done yet. More changes will come. But how big plans are just for this section but for those of you who have spent a chunk of your Saturdays reading the pages we lovingly put to bed on Thursday nights. I want to tell you now that things will just keep getting better.

Advertising icon Bruce Barton said, "When you are through changing, you are through." I'm definitely not through changing. I'm through changing my beliefs. I'm ready for more and I'm cooking up my own.

Sigh Candy

By Katrina A. Rodriguez

A thousand words are unspoken in a sigh. The singular release of breath, accompanied by an all original sound (composed by sigh-er) may represent anything from relief to sad surrender.

It was typical delight while rolling an afternoon's spree in the company of a new friend or being back with all here a painful memory of a past love. But whatever reason, when a sigh springs from your lips, it is never shallow; it comes deep from a place deep within and is released into the here and now. Sighing is the most acute assessment of the power of what was experienced and its effect on the present. Wow. Deep. Sigh.

I've been subtexting sighs recently, mainly since, generated by changes that have occurred to my personal and professional life. There were sighs that welcomed the changes, and there were many more sighs that acted as the only way to express that ache in my heart when they were not welcome at all. I've been privy to other sighs as well, those of friends and family around me; it seems, that sighs are as universal as a deep belly laugh, and depending on the delivery can be met with sympathy or scorn.

Society is jar full of sigh candy, and every now and then I share one (or many) with a friend, or have a piece in private. What I've discovered is that each one symbolizes meeting you, in other words, if you can sigh about something, then it's behind you and the same way you push the breath out, you also push yourself forward if only to be fully aware of how and what you feel then and there. Sounds simple, sigh. I know.

If anything, a sigh can help, it is an affirmation and a release. It welcomes in a happy thought and kick farewell to unpleasantness, all you need to do is breathe. Change is inevitable and will bring about every kind of emotion imaginable. Thank goodness no matter how affected we may get, no matter what part of the world we are in, we can always just sigh, inhale and ...sigh.

Let there be wind

By Tab Chay

YOU KNOW WHEN IT IS WHEN you hang into someone you haven't seen for a while and that person says "there's something different about you, but I can't place it?"

That, I believe, is the true quality of change. It is less of a conscious decision, but more of a realization that what once was is no longer. It's not a whole-hog-back-to-nature/car job of recognition, but an awareness that had built up slowly and naturally with the collected subtleties and nuances of time. What was once a blank canvas is now a painting, and today it's a different picture from what I first learned how to paint.

What I see in the picture of "Una dos Windows" on Super today is a renewed strength in having to weather the shifting winds. In my little canvas, I've been chronicling a journey that was hopefully lived well and seeking kind, but rather one that always meant to inspire readers that the real adventures in life is to be found and the heart, the next adventure needs embarking on is without its turning points.

The true test of characters is one's ability to weather the storms. There is much significance in being a citizen aware of the realities and failings, the seasonal gusts we are familiar with because of our place in the world. Do we ever learn from them? Those changes can be the absence of people who once walked alongside us but have now chosen to follow their own winds. Or even the presence of new people we've discovered to be comparing along the same coastal lines other all.

Like an old blanket told me, when you're hit with the winds of change, you can build walls or windmills. To those fellow adventurers and explorers, past and present, here's to building our windmills.

Super Answers

CELEBRITIES ARE CONSTANTLY bombarded with interviews. This time, Super turns the tables on them and gives them the chance to ask the question—and we want you—yes, you—to give them the answers.

Last week, Miriam Quiambao wanted to know: What is your highest vision and greatest version of yourself and of this country? Fiona Rivera wrote, "I see myself giving care and comfort to the sick and the dying and rendering my humble service to the less fortunate every way I can. I hope to see this country full of people who are responsible and who show care and concern not only for themselves and those close to them but for all their fellow citizens."

This week, Kristine Hermosa wants to know, "Where can I go in Manila to find good quality material to make into clothes?"

E-mail your answers to super@inquirer.com.ph with the subject heading "super answers." Your Super answer will be printed next week.

SUPER FRESH!

Status Quote

When asked what he thinks about Filipinos buying his films for 25 cents: 'As long as they're seen by people, I don't care. I'm I-in rich!'

'You get the film industry that you deserve. You don't buy a Filipino film for 25 cents. Watch it in the theatres.'

FALLING UP

LEAP of faith.

From page C1

to him: girl" demurred), my friend had asked the jump operator on the top of the tower if there were any rules we had to follow before we plunge to our near-death. With the unnerving cool of a Zen master, one guy replied, "Nothing. Just jump." (I was quite familiar with that tone; it was the same one my brother would use in the dinner table when he would ask me to pass the salt.)

Then another guy added, "Stretch out your hands. And jump."

Truly, these are great words of comfort when you're pacing bricks from a hundred feet high and ready to vomit out your heart.

With my bound legs, I inched my way to the edge of the tower. I stretched out my hands. And I jumped.

And I screamed louder than a guy gay in the front row of a Madonna concert.

HIGHER GROUND

But something happens within those few seconds in mid-air, which is nothing short of a spiritual experience. My mind cleared up. I thought of nothing else and yet was intensely aware of the world that wasn't just around me anymore, but was a part of me.

Right before you hit the ground, the cord snaps and shoots you back into the air until gravity pulls you to fall again. You fall again and again, and each time, your fear grows less and less. By the time you stop moving, you are suddenly not afraid of anything. One may think of gravity as a force of nature that pulls you down, but now I have come to believe that it is a force that centers you.

So what is fear then? Most would say that fear is born out of the unknown, but perhaps there is an even greater fear that arises from what is known. All those things in your mind that impose limits and build walls, leading to the real insanity.

May it be known then, on this glorious day on a tropical island, I discovered that the cool thrill in taking one great leap is an opera salad.

TAKING the bungee plunge.

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ALL EVENTS HAPPENING AT THE LOUNGE

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Aug. 20 – 5 pm to 7 pm
"Thailand on Center Stage: The Royal Classical Dance Performers"
Thailand's Temptations

Malaysia Week
Aug. 25 – 5 pm onwards
"Malay Mark: The Art of Malaysian Tribal Tattooing"
A Taste of Malaysia

Aug. 26 – 5 pm to 7 pm
"Malay Moves: The Court-Classical Dances of Malaysia"

ASEAN MONTH
August 27
Celebrating the Spirit of Solidarity in Southeast Asia
"A cultural presentation highlighting the rich culture and heritage of the Philippines"

Philippine Week
Aug. 17 – 5:30 pm
Ethnic Band Performance
"Kalutuloang Kapamanan: Filipino Tree Ethnic Music"

Malaysia Week
Aug. 24 – 5:30 pm
Tribal Tattoo: "Malay Mark: The Art of Malaysian Tribal Tattooing"

Malaysian Desserts
"A Taste of Malaysia: Malaysian Food Exhibit for the Sweet Tooth"

Thailand Week
Aug. 25 – 5:30 pm
Royal Classical Dances
"Thailand on Center Stage: The Royal Classical Dance Performances"

Thai Desserts
"Thailand's Temptations: Sweets and Desserts from the Land of Smiles"

Singapore Week
Aug. 28 – 5:30 pm
Face Painting
"Colors in Drama: The Art of Face Painting"

Chinese Ensemble
"Ethnic Ensemble: Indigenous Sounds of Singapore"

Singaporean Desserts
"Gastronomic Singapore: A Taste of Singapore's Sweets and Desserts"

SUPER

Fragmentation, reinvention and success

Young film director gets hold of more big prizes

I FIRST MET RAYA MARTIN two years ago during a photo shoot for this section that featured 22 young avant-guardians. After watching his 30-minute theatrical, "Childhood is the Philippine Islands, Unaltered," in war and/or liberation, I knew he had to be included on the list. He came on the shoot wearing a pink shirt with the words "Everybody Loves an Asian Boy" written on it.

Rayaverset on to reap recognition in important film festivals here and abroad. The list is pretty long. I don't even know where to begin. Another entry's added to the roll—a few days ago, Raya was awarded the Best Picture and Best Director awards in the year's Cinemalla International Film Festival Digital Label competition for his film, "Independencia."

I caught Raya right before he gave a seminar on Independent Filmmaking in Greenmalla to chat about his film, his creative influences, and his next project—a trilogy about his childhood.

Raya, congratulations. How do you feel right now?

I'm very excited to premiere my work, which I thought wouldn't see the light, or otherwise, of the local multiplex theaters.

Talk about "Independencia." What inspired you to pursue it?

My friend filmmaker Dawn and I were discussing about the execution of Andres

EVERYBODY LOVES AN ASIAN BOY: Raya earns raves from QC to Paris.

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NOSTALGIC, PUZZLING. Is this the coolest movie poster or what?

Fragment

Southern, which had several stage adaptations. This was the same time I had notes to learn about moving back to Manila after living in Paris for a few months. Around the same time my brother, also one of my best friends, moved out of the country to Singapore for work. It was limbo for me. I tried to put these two things together, the personal and the fictional.

Do you think an audience familiar with your work will be surprised by the film?

Yes and no. It seems that intervention runs in my blood, despite the fact that I tackle similar subjects every time, so that my works are quite different from each other, specifically in my approach and treatment. I have been a documentary, a silent film, and "mockumentary" at a time in video art and installation.

Do you ever take into account what the audience is willing to accept?

There are things that an audience wants and needs. He wants to feel. He needs history.

Artists have conventionally symbolized **time through completeness or disintegration. Now we're seeing a lot of depictions of time through randomness. Talk** about the type of weight that you want to fashion with your body of work. Talk about completeness and fragmentation in your films.

It's interesting that you brought up the idea of fragmentation. I've always believed that our generation has a fragmented mind,

SUPER FRESH! **SATURDAY SEVEN**

Rooms for Inspiration: The works of Kawayan de Guia

By Juana R. Manahan

FRENCH THINKER CHARLES Baudelaire said, "Let an inventor of common folk, of common sense, of sentiments, of inspiration, and of the obvious." Originality, on the other hand, is the element that adds uniqueness to one's inspiration. Consider the artist Kawayan de Guia. His latest exhibition at the Drawing Room entitled "Incubator" a homage in all the artists that have inspired him. Kawayan created different "rooms" for each artist. Tributes and studies on other artists are nothing new, but viewing the exhibited works, it can be noted that Kawayan's "inspiration" goes far deeper than simply copying a style. Kawayan grew up among the artists community in Baguio, who later came to be known as the Baguio Artist's Guild. The Guild is made up of several artists representing various disciplines; painters, sculptors, performance artists and those who dabbled in a little bit of everything. It was in this environment that Kawayan was nurtured.

Each of Kawayan's pieces take elements of the artist that he idolizes the most to, but adds on an element of his own. As love, Kawayan's work is inspired by pop art. Pop art made popular in the '60s is a form of showcasing reality. It takes objects out of their natural contexts and gives it a new meaning to the story that the artist tells on the canvas. In his work titled "Tommy Hafalla," Kawayan paints an image of a camera to signify the work of Hafalla as a noted Cordillera documentary photographer. In the checkered squares on the floor below, one can look closer and see that the black squares are made up of photographs of Cordillera people that Hafalla is known for. Kawayan dedicates another painting to his famous father, Hal De Taboada, who made a name for himself using stereotypes about ethnicity in his painting, elements of Hafal's ethnicity are scattered throughout, including a coin of the Banaue Rice Terraces. His father's famous acronym, LIBERTY, which was an acronym for "Great Idea Boss Room Thank You," as a part of a campaign to reduce watching television, appears on the back of the jeep. Both father and son took inspiration from Marcel Duchamp's famous painting of the bearded Mona Lisa entitled L.H.O.O.Q, which, when each letter is pronounced in itself, translates roughly into a French phrase: "She has a sexy ass." In placing acronyms in their works, both Duchamp and Hafal Taboada sent out a message to their viewing audience: In using the acronym in the painting dedicated to his father, Kawayan has made the acronym itself an icon that will forever represent Hafal Taboada.

The work dedicated to installation artist Roberto Villanueva includes an image of his work entitled "Bridge of Grass Dalton," which was an installation he created in Lake Sagami, Japan. Kawayan makes use of many images of sticks, wood and bamboo, as Villanueva made use of nats.

ROOM of Nona Aquitania

ROOM of Agnes Arellano

ROOM of Tommy Hafalla

ROOM of Kidlat Tahimik

ed materials to create his installations. He can be expressed in various media, like those Aquitania, whose performances are made his body the central spectacle. Performance art goes back to the Italians and Futurist Happenings, wherein they created art that could be experienced by all the senses. Kawayan captures these happenings in the canvas by visually guiding the viewer to the central figure of the body of the martyred St. Stephen in the middle. Studies are also the central focus of sculptor Agnes Arellano, who is famous for using the medical of dinner canning as solid cast marble to create her sculptures. In her "room" are several statues of religious icons. A Thai Buddha and a Virgin Mary share the same space, as Kawayan communicates the big role that Malike statues play in religion. This also highlights Arellano's mastery of bringing sculptures to life. In the background, one will notice the face of a mass-like religious style statue, almost in the form of Michelangelo's David.

What homage to Filipino/Baguio based artist would be complete without one work dedicated to Kidlat. A framed work of Kidlat's "Tahimik" stares out on the corner of the

Super looks at seven works, one artist

ROOM of Santiago Bose

tation, reinvention and success

From page B1

...traces you as a filmmaker?

...Isn't it a generation that is completely starving to forget history? History is important, our whole lives are based upon past experiences, but also teachers of history forget that we're a different audience; so my approach is in a way that I'd appreciate it myself coming from that youngest bracket. Hunters and dams don't mean a thing to us; findings and our understanding bring us closer to the cinemas.

What are your biggest creative influences?

A variety of things: Iranian cinema, 80s horror films, Anya Gerrol "That's Entertainment," Frederic Chopin, Belgian beers, Canadian indie bands, green tea, a walk in the park, late night taxi rides.

What do you think about fame and celebrity?

It's fine while it lasts, but one has to take good care and responsibility. People are watching and listening.

What are some of your current favorite films?

Carlos Reygadas' "Silent Light," Gus Van Sant's "Paranoid Park," and Jude Cassen's "Gods."

What project would you really want to do now?

Now recently I will be shooting three features films billed as one. They're a series of personal events in my childhood towards being a filmmaker. It will be my first non-binocular film in a while. I'm also preparing my next project called "Independencia," a family drama set in the Amerikan occupation.

How do you define success as a filmmaker?

I think it's similar to how you define success as a human being. It's hard to define. One has to live to answer.

Catch Yearbymovie" tomorrow, August 19 (Sunday) at 10.30 p.m. in Channel 8 of Universe Hall.

...ts Milestone

Room of BenCab

...cons, while a cutscenter of the artist takes the comics canvas. To the right of the figure of the artist is a barrack. Could this be Ayerscott's statement of pointing out the possible number of BenCabs that are entering the market? Ayerscott also calls Santiago Ilaw, famous for his crass intercut art which raised awareness on the socio-economic issues in the Philippines. Ilaw's own style was inspired by graphics derived with pastiche icons. Ayerscott achieves Ilaw's layered graphics technique by looking use of lines/Ilandia to highlight the differences and depth in the work.

Ayerscott's own style comes together as he draws from all his memories and from popular art movements. His own painting entitled "Me" sits on the floor of the exhibition, humbling himself in the presence of the works in homage to great artists. Depth is something that Ayerscott hoped to achieve in his works. He states his main Ever Bip art wherein he creates a new context to familiar images, while adopting the graphic style of Sayoting. He also explores the cubist idea of an atmospheric space, where it flickers between reality and pictorial reality, and looks at space from simultaneous viewpoints at once. Kawayan, like Picasso and Braque before him, also adopts the use of placing "found object" and mixed media. Yes many artists use this method with great success.

There was a time when I thought that many artists used the "found object method" as a means of selling something as "art," when there was really not much more to the work than a cigarette butt stapled to a canvas. Be it from mixed medium paintings are the few of the younger contemporary artists that make use of the medium with a compelling story. He is the first mixed medium work that I did not want to take apart. Instead, Dr. Cielo puts to use the phrase of sociologist Marshal McLuhan in saying, "the medium is the message." Thus achieving the depth that he wanted in his works of art.

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We'll take you further

SOUND CREW. Jaimy Tulo, Marsha Tupaso and Jaejae Tulo

FUNKJAY and Caliphil play OPDM (Original Pinoy Dance Music) during the Rewired Experience at Warehouse 135.

REWIRED. Galvez dubbing in a new level by pushing the boundaries of electronic dance music.

REWIRED. Marvin Angala and Jessie Suarez

SUPER FRESH! PEEPS

Dance Dance Revolution

By Paula B. Reyes

SAVE FOR THE OCcasional alcohol-induced scuffle or drunken celebrity sighting, Saturday nights never really offer anything out of the ordinary.

In fact, fast-fuelled disco-domes—complete with hair-pulling and a scary exchange of expletives—have become superior spots for all sorts of hot tips, casual observers, and even dental surgeons.

But recently, there was an event in a different kind of disco. Grown, this time breeding their head DJs and active vocal artists.

At the Rewired Experience at Warehouse 135 last Aug. 4, progressive music initiators Caliphil, Stevie Sandoval, and Paulo Ayo lured all in a friendly battle that placed their cutting-edge brand of disco music with the cool digital art of Dandon "Transistor" Reñares.

"We like to call it OPDM, or Original Pinoy Dance Music," shared Warehouse 135 head Serafin Dimalanta Pesayco, as the trio played side by side, shaking out iconic slabs of electronica, above the DJ deck, a massive screen displayed Dimalanta's graphic interpretation of their music.

"Club music and its accompanying culture transcends time for new ideas," says DJ Adrian Carmona of Rewired, a consortium of DJs that aims to push the boundaries and break the mire of dance music. "Many DJs and club owners stick to what is safe. We want to take clubbing to a new level, and the only way to move forward is to innovate."

So if you're in the mood for a little more innovation, Circle 8 and his band of electronic buddies hold court at Warehouse 135 every a month. Tonight at 10 p.m., Miss Bubbles, Ghostfacers, and Punk Ayo go head-to-head. Go forth, it's Rainbow Invasion the Rockstar Brothers rule. Eventually, followed by the sloppy mantic brewery comes around 1000 and starts this at 8pm. 22.

In this modern delete mega-logodic, called Movie Manila, where music and other forms of [illegible] have a symbiotic, [illegible] relationship, it's good to know that our club nights are neither private nor predictable.

HOUSE HONCHO. Dando Pesayco

SONIC SPECTATORS. Ria Tupaso and Jael Lorbeneza

SPIN DOCTORS. Kevin Tambunting and Yumi Aoy

GIRL POWER

SUPERFICIAL IS NO [illegible] that has brought together women who rock in graphic design, illustration, pop and fine art. The 20+1 all-girl exhibit opened earlier this month at T+1 art [illegible] gallery.

The featured artists include Aiy Bautista ng Kabuuan ng Pahina Uno Press, children's book illustrator Peppet Bravo and Ubi Gag vocal artist MM '70, Hannah Llanguren, whose fantastic Gothic Drama and Pili Lacsamana, young artists Pamela Montilla, Kate de Claro and Marie Cano. Lois Gallardo, who drew the award-winning comic 'Filka Girl' is also part of the show.

Freelance designers Iro and Oat from Bahia gallery are part of the exhibit, along with mixed media artists Dot Lopezmid, Orion Rosada, Harriet graduate Bea Aplacido and Jessy Hipe.

Superficial is also supported by the [illegible] comic zine publishing collective, [illegible] Pi+1st gallery is in 1 corner 6-7 St. Jo-seong Road in Quezon City.

SATURDAY Special

Vilma Santos—the Star for Many More Reasons

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST MONTH, WE DESCRIBED leading female stars' "career arcs" with some show biz columnists and most of us agreed that Vilma Santos has had the most interesting and instructive career in show—and her future prospects could be even more remarkable!

We have other outstanding female stars who've won all sorts of awards, enjoyed a great run, stayed mum and discreet, and enjoyed a substantial influence beyond their show biz scenes.

Major crises

But, Vilma has done more, gone further and weathered major crises besides, so she's in a category all her own. See if you agree.

Vilma started her career as a child star, and this made her grow up in a (very) public story other child talents who stop getting offers at the count of adolescence, Vilma kept right on working in front of the TV movie camera, all the way to pang-lolly metaphysique roles, her precocious love team with Edgar Mortiz, and young-adult roles.

Financial reverses pulled her down momentarily, but Vilma fought back and paid her debts, charming the administration of movie industry leaders, who were surprised and gratified to see that the "cute" star had (not) gotten fat her, as well.

Then came another challenge—that threatened her career's continuing upward trajectory: Vilma had been acting her heart out in her movies, but she always seemed to end up second-best to Nora Aunor when it came to awards.

In a result, Vilma took a hard look at her options, and decided to concentrate on relationship during roles that Nora left available of doing full justice to.

WRYLY. Shows "spunsomcabinet" dream of once pointing her nascent morning for a national position.

Challenging roles

This meant that Vilma would go for challenging roles like the tragic stripper in "Broken Vows," the devastated lead in "Dama de Noche," and the modern, conflicted wife in "Relasyon" (Sigh). In Vilma's daring portfolio are also "Dekada '70" (that she had "recaptured" herself. Many awards came her way, and the industry finally saw Nora and Vilma as co-equal queens, not only of the box office, but also of movie-award competitions.

Later, Vilma's lifestyle struck acute up even further when she played an activist nun in "Sister Stella L." "Sister" only did the (difficult) role severely Vilma's forte, but it also made her "relevant" in terms of social issues, as "Himala" hung Gemma Cruz had done for Elsa.

Vilma married rising politician, Ralph Recto (Jesus, she herself was for office, and served Lipa City well as its mayor for nine formative and affirmative years. Her constituents' approval of her remote ruled her to dream bigger in political terms, and she ended up in a hard-fought campaign that made her the governor of Batangas province.

Now, Vilma's focus on politics for the past decades has limited her show biz involvements, but her colleagues have supported her in her new endeavors, because she has proven that some stars can do more than entertain.

Female TV-movie luminary

Yes, stats stars like Armando Hot Jr. and Joseph Estrada have done the same, but it's gratifying to see that a female TV-movie luminary like Vilma can also serve the nation.

To date, Vilma's political years have been local and provincial in nature, but her recent triumph at the polls has made some "spunsomcabinet" dreams of hers pointing her toward running for a national post now...or remains on even higher!

At the moment, she stands like a fantasy find stronger things have been known to happen in this country, where show biz and politics are—very comfortable bedfellows!

Tandem

It's interesting to note that, some years ago, we saw the Ralph-Vilma tandem eventually outranking the top post in the land with Kiko Oliveros, Mar Roxas, or other, yet-to-be-established politicos and show biz pairings —and now? Will it be Vilma-Ralph, instead?

In any case, Vilma has been extraordinarily learning her political lessons, so she could decide to take the "big step" without waiting for another decade to elapse.

Adding to her confidence to the her chat, although she's rarely seen in the big and small screens these days, she remains a popular star and her movies have continued to hit a big note at the box office—evidencing a popularity that she can make full use of in a national election.

So, will she, or won't she? Whatever the future holds, Vilma is our leading female TV movie luminary to date—and the Star for All Seasons is now also the Star for Many More Reasons!

GERONIMO. Evolving musical maturity.

Sarah Geronimo sings her age in 'Taking Flight'

By Rito P. Asilo

IN HER FOURTH STUDIO ALBUM, "Taking Flight," Sarah Geronimo continues to show off the confident vocals and musical maturity that benefited last year's "Secondhan."

Indeed, the singing champ's first two albums, "Popstar" and "Sweet Sixteen," boasted of a repertoire that included radio-friendly tunes like "Forever's Not Enough" and heartbreaking covers of pop-rock favorites like "I Wanna Know What Love Is."

Vocal bravado

But sadly, no amount of vocal bravado could give the young singer the level of versatility and vocal prowess that her first recording effort—despite their chart-topping popularity and brisk sales—sorely lacked.

In the past year, however, the affable pop princess has subtly shown that there is more to her than her Disney-Viper-like ability to turn sappy lyrics and bone-crushing melodies into bestselling hits.

Even local music's top composers are making stables of lately newfound confidence: Louie Ocampo, for instance, contributes two songs to "Taking Flight"—the soothing "I'll Be Alright" (cowritten with Edith Gallardo) and the ardent "Time to My Heart."

Vinci Raffy's Michelle Madrigal also lends Sarah his musical wit and feel for pop culture in the sweetness "Bam."

Rebel Madrigaining with the resurgent anthemic "I'll Be Here," which shows off Sarah's well-honed vocal, emotional and melodic skills, as well as the radio-friendly "Time to Let Go," an exquisitely arranged duet with crossover rockabout, Jay Mark Ramirez.

SARAH GERONIMO

Triumphant finale for action-packed spy franchise

By Nicolai Sieva

"THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM," the third and last installment in the Bourne film series, is literally breathtaking. Moving so fast as the bullet that zips from the barrel of an assassin's gun, the action thriller will have you reeling with barely breath at the edge of your seat as action sequences run their fast and furious course before your eyes. So, catch your breath when you can, and don't feel cowardly if you close your eyes—because you don't want to miss a second of this exhilarating movie!

Directed by Paul Greengrass ("Bourne Supremacy," "United 93"), the film brings back director Jason Bourne, who now has lost not just his memory, but his girl, as well.

All he wants to do now is find out how and why he became so accomplished at leading bands, shooting people, and outsmarting sophisticated intelligence networks.

Amnesiac death

The talented Matt Damon soon again reassumes his role as the brooding and amnesiac sleuth, who's even friendlier the third time around—with eyes that seem to have sunk deeper into his skull.

As he has proven since the onset of the series, Damon shows that he can star alone his box-office looks, making them work for him, instead of against him. Bourne's Bourne is a decent person at heart—but he's to the process of rediscovering himself. At the same time, he kicks major ass—and he's pretty believable at it!

Speaking of kicking and such, or violent activities, there is, as expected, quite a lot of that going on in "Ultimatum."

Violence

Unlike most action flicks, however, the violence here is neither gratuitous nor depicted in the cartoonish slick, arcade game-like style.

Director Greengrass drags his audience right into the fight scenes, so we can hear every painful groan and the sound of flesh hitting flesh. This is no "The Matrix"—everything in the action sequences looks real! And when people die, it's not an event you can easily dismiss!

Essentially, however, the third "Bourne" installment is a chase movie. Jason goes after the people who know his past, and they're running from other people who don't want that information leaked. There study figures chase after Bourne to eliminate the threat he remains (read: to kill him).

But, it sounds like the movie's good and bad guys were armed to circles, but though there's a lot of location hopping bars—from Moscow, London and Tunis to Tangier and New York—the actor's multiple storylines are tightly woven together, forcing the audience with barely any breathing room, and keeping the movie going at a considerably fast pace.

Adrenaline-driven

This is exactly how action thrillers should be, but seldom are: fast, intelligent and adrenaline-driven. Though the movie's action set pieces rapidly follow each other, they never become monotonous—they stand out, and you can distinctly remember each one long after the film is over.

—Thank goodness, "The Bourne Ultimatum" wasn't inflicted with the year's disappointing shortsped virus!

Sarah Geronimo . . .

(Continued from page E1)

It's also great to hear the young chanteuse singing Irma Belandres's gentle ballads and fluffy love songs. The 11-track lineup includes the talented songwriter's "So" and "What If I," which are, in terms of range, undoubtedly subtler than her more popular compositions ("Stone"). They are nevertheless accurate showcases of the kind of artist that grew up you upon repeated spins in the (2) player.

This time, Sarah also dabbles in songs that fit her poetic. The noteworthy cut, "Tuloboy," one of the album's best and most vocally challenging tracks, is free Whitney and Angie Stone—he's lyrically outspoken collaborations.

Drizzle Mariz's "My Soulmate" is a playful ditty that showcases the singer's sing and an less age—and effortlessly setups Sarah of her artistically ambitious demeanor.

Artistic persona

Chenkie Gregbia interests his artistic persona—from previous child prodigy to emergent songwriter—by combining two of "Taking Flight's" more notable numbers. The upbeat track, "Miss," and the lounge's winning line song, "Salve Na," which add a youthful appeal to Sarah's bravely all-original compositions.

Let's hear it for artistic movement!

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Kitchen for a cause

THE VARGAS family served up scrumptious Turkish cuisine.

OVER THE WEEKend, Kashieve and 666-Chi (publishing hosted Fish Kitchen), a period food-and-drink affair held from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Bodewell Tent.

The gastronomic event came from Pampanga and Lagunas. From the first restaurants in Manila came Mancocai, French, Thai, Italian, Cuban and Indian dishes and sandwiches.

One hundred fifty students from Lourdes College volunteered as waiters and food servers—they must have served over 10,000 guests in two days!

I presented the Amigo hearts of TV chef, Myrna Argumedo, Tiana Wine Cellar's "Stella Mia" red wine, and the Vargas Kitchen's scrumptious bacon cake (call 830-7020).

Gorgeous setting

On the first day, Bankwell Tan was trending with beautiful people: Jing Jing Vasquez of Wabash commented, "I don't usually stay at an event for four hours, but I really enjoyed attending Fish Kitchen because I saw a lot of friends — and as mentors for gorgeous eating!"

The following day, I saw even more people. They were there to support Kasieve, a foundation put up by journalist Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, who is herself a breast cancer survivor. Guests included Dr. Joyce Pascual, Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos, Irene Marcos-Araneta and Monique Villasco.

The foundation aims to empower women with information on breast cancer and to help subsidize cancer treatment of women. It will sponsor the country's first nationwide Early Breast Cancer Detection program. E-mail cianarvo@yahoo.com, or visit www.cianarvo.net.

KARA (right) with Monique Villasco and Imelda Marcos.

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Mandy Navarrete

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AT THE MALLS

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Alabang Town Center — Mechanical Bull — August 11 to 19, '07 (Sat., 3 pm & 6 pm; Sun. 4 pm) at the Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu — Walking Kimat — August 3 to 30, 2007 at the AFBC Annex

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Trinoma — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids — at SM's Annex Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 — For inquiries, pls. call 687-4710

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Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Tri-Noma

Kaisa stages glittering musical revue

GIFTED Chinese Filipino actor-singers cast in "Kaisa Ka!" show—(clockwise from top) Peter Lim Bonoza, Daphne Chia, Lorraine Tang, Sherwin Sycon, Liesbeth Valeria Yap and Eva Maria Penn.

KAISA PARA SA KAUNLARAN celebrates its 20th anniversary with the major theatrical event, "Tinoy: Kaisa Ka!," to be presented on Sept. 14 and 15 at the Aver King Auditorium, Kaisa Angelo King Heritage Center, Intramuros, Manila.

"Tinoy: Kaisa Ka!" presents a panoramic view of the Chinese-Filipino experience in the Philippines—its history, heroic sacrifices by Chinese Filipinos like Jose Frial and Gen. Ignacio Pwee, issues and questions, and current contributions by its many volunteers in different spheres of society.

Deeply dramatic

Numbers to range from the deeply dramatic to breezy fun, interwoven by music beautifully composed by Jun Mar Ilo.

The entertaining and insightful musical revue is written and directed by Nestor U. Torre, whose other musical productions like "Magsi-

ANDY Sun, Jr. (at right, center), regales delighted cast members with his musical tribute to Chinese cuisine.

kot," "Magsimula Ka," "Bahay ng Canonay," and "Ang Big sa Buzon" have reaped acclaim and have been shown all over the country.

The show typifies gifted Chinoy performers like Sherwin Sycon, Daphne Chia, Peter Lim Bonoza, Eva Maria Penn, Noel Edvin Ong, Liesbeth Valeria Yap, Lorraine Tang, Edwin Tan and Ang Chak Chi.

They are performing in close artistic collaboration with exceptional Philippine theater artists like Rico Avila, Andy Sun, Nelsa Cuevas, Amandao Abiera, Fidito Bilang-o, Jay Alexander, Ismael Mugot and Cecil Ray Boydelle and Elisa Tuvo Choreography is by Eric Avila and Mabon Evoke Lapaz.

Both cast and production staffers have been rehearsing intensely to do justice to the musical revue's significant and important theme: The fusion and integration of Chinese and Pinoys for the country's greater good.

Cameo appearances

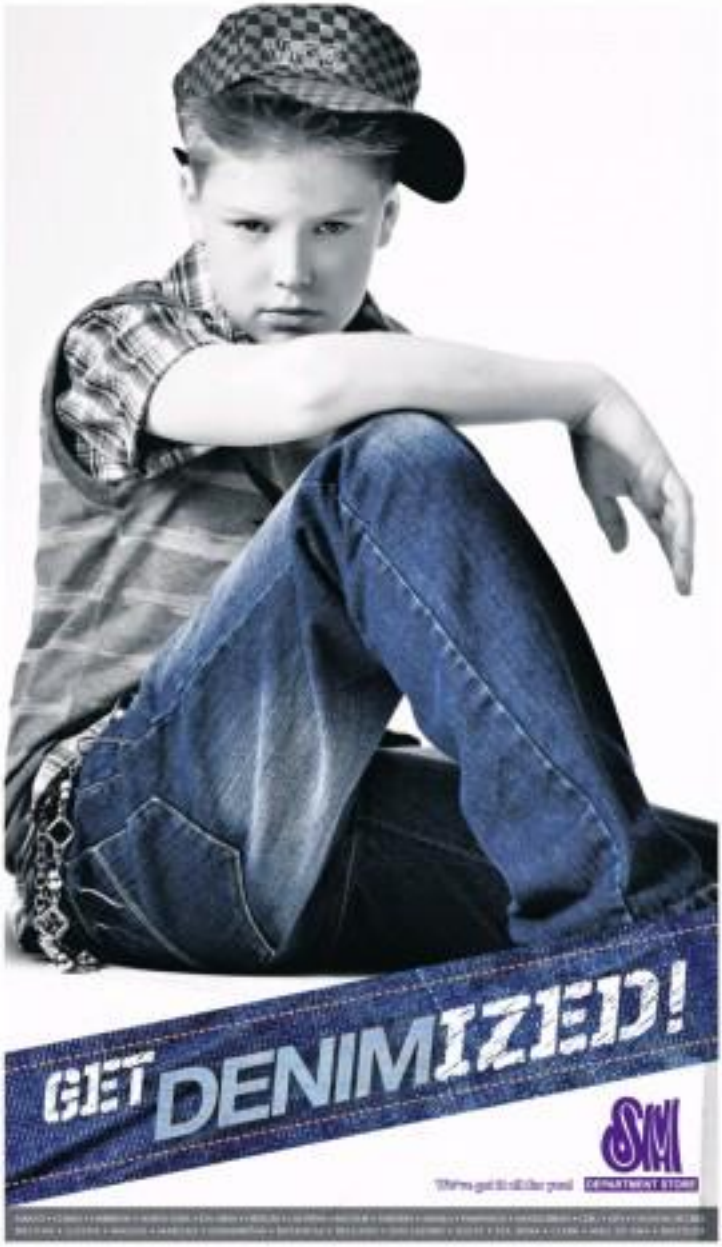
Production design is by Lee Sioly, an acclaimed director and visual artist in his own right. Lights are by Marvin Pontes. Lyrics are by Eric Avila and Noemi Ilvin. Cameo appearances will be made by leading Chinoy personalities like Jose Mari Chan, in further underscore the Chinese Filipino community's deep involvement in Kaisa projects.

On its 15th anniversary, Kaisa presented "Tinoy: Mga Anak ng Dragon" to great acclaim. Proceeds of that show went to the building of the Kaisa Heritage Center, which houses the Bahay Tinoy: A Museum of the Chinese in Philippine Life, the Kaisa Research and Data Bank Center, Chinben Ben Memorial Library, Aver King Auditorium, and the Tsinoy-in-Nation Building Gallery.

Viability

This 20th anniversary show will raise funds for the continuing viability of the Bahay Tsinoy Museum and support the ongoing cost of maintaining the Center.

For tickets to "Tinoy: Kaisa Ka's!" Sept. 14 and 15 performances, call 527-6883, 520-6796 or 462-0922, or e-mail kaisa@philonline.com. The Kaisa Angelo King Heritage Center is located at No. 22 Anda corner Calle no., Intramuros, Manila. Reports are scheduled on Nos. 4 and 6.



Weathering storms

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Ricaforte

STORMS ARE weather disturbances that disrupt man's normal life. But, other types of storms have the same effect.

The Storm of Anger comes circumstances and resources. It must not be allowed to build up and gain strength. It can be controlled by humility and love. It's a storm that also causes self-destruction, so great care must be taken to counter it. Avoid feeding its destructive strength with pride, envy and greed.

The Storm of Confusion is caused by ignorance and illusion. Persons who don't seek or accept the Absolute Truth tend to be its victims. In times of mounting problems and return, this causes people to run around in all directions.

Spiritual enlightenment

We are battered by ever-changing thoughts, emotions and desires. Winds easily change their speed and direction. Don't feed these powerful winds with senseless ideas, fantasies and mundane thoughts. Drive them away with wisdom and spiritual enlightenment.

The Storm of Self Pity is caused by false humility and obsession with one's problems. As to self-denigration? In these times we must make the energy of these around it, and magnify its presence. Don't feed it with sympathy. Solutions are found in spiritual love and the Supreme Power.

As a general rule, don't create your own storms. If there's one blessing around, be ready to deal with it wisely. Last but not least, storms eventually pass. Seek the eternal—and don't always stay in one!

SATURDAY Special

WITH MCQUEEN in Paris in 1965.

Fil-Am actresses should vie for role of Steve McQueen's wife

THE PRESSURE cover of Neile's book, "My Husband, My Friend," which is being developed into a movie.

LOS ANGELES—MARLA ROSS NEILE McQueen Toffel announced last Wednesday that her popular book, "My Husband, My Friend," which chronicles her life with the late Steve McQueen, has been optioned to be made into a movie.

Also known as Neile Adams, the statuesque and stylish actress who is said to be related to Philippine shoe biz's Salvador clan, announced through a publicist that New Line's Xavier Kahn is developing a big-screen adaptation of their book.

Fil-Am actresses, take note—Neile's announcement to the media included the following: "A search is now underway to cast an actress who will portray the enduring seven years, from 1963[sic] to 1970, when she, Neile McQueen Toffel, was the mother of the actor's children and was by his side for 15 years during the production of all of his major films."

Entertainer

Since a role like this doesn't come up in Hollywood every day, Fil-Am actresses who fit the bill should audition to play Neile. Actresses who want to portray the latter[sic] would be wise to start reading "My Husband, My Friend."

The memoir, described as Neile's "story on the exhilarating yet turbulent life with her matinee-idol husband," has been serialized by AuthorHouse to mark its 20th publishing anniversary.

Neile's young life was just as dramatic. Born in the Philippines to a mother who was an entertainer known as "Miami, the Pearl of the Orient," the survivor of a Japanese prison camp in Manila during World War II. We last them featured Douglas MacArthur reportedly helped Neile and her mother escape to the US.

Despite her age, Neile still wages exhausting shows at nightclubs venues across the US, and has four CDs of show tunes and standards. We watched her for the first time many years ago when she performed at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel's now-defunct Cascade Room (where Michelle Pfeiffer sang on top of a fishy grand piano in that movie-

NEILE TODAY. Still active in show business, she has her own cabaret show and four CDs of standards and show tunes.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert T. Yejadles

oble scene from "The Fabulous Baker Boys").

Outings, she was spotted at the investment Broadway show tunes and standards. As she had in the '60s, Neile still researches her show, with the characteristic bangs. The multi-talented Neile had the distinction of dancing the Bob Fosse classic, "Steam Heat," in the original Broadway production of "The Pajama Game."

In the book, Neile revealed the ups and downs of living with the actor—including Steve's womanizing! Their marriage produced a daughter, Terry (who died in 1990) and a son, Chad.

Divorce

After the couple's divorce in 1972, Steve went through two more marriages—to actress Ali MacGraw and model Barbara Minty. In interviews, Neile claims she does not hold any grudge against Ali. Since his death in 1980 at age 50, Steve has gained a cult-like status that he did not achieve when he was still alive.

Neile plans to supervise the filming to make sure that the appropriate tone of her book is maintained when it is adapted for the big screen.

In satellite interviews, she said, "The reason why this book has never been redupted for the big screen[sic] is because of my need to have creative control. Young producers these days don't have enough life experience, so they would go for the parts where there's womanizing, drugs and violence.

"I know that is what's going to happen, because I've had talks with them—and those things seem all they could see! They forget that the thrust of the tale is the love story between two people—the other things are just a subplot."

Kingsley remains protective of clients

As the Beverly Hills handyman that we mentioned in yesterday's column, we sit beside Pat Kingsley, the doyenne of Hollywood film publicity. She is one of the town's most powerful women. The founder of PMK (which stands for but initials), one of Tinseltown's top publicity firms, Kingsley is a Hollywood celebrity who has worked with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Steve Day and Natalie Wood.

These days, Pat represents some of Hollywood's biggest stars—from Julia Roberts to Tom Hanks. When Pat learned that we were from Asia, she said that the hottest day she has ever experienced—literally, [illegible] when she was in Singapore with ex-flame Tom Cruise to attend concerts premiere.

Pat recounted Singapore's scorching weather, and how Tom, despite sweating

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4 SURF'S UP
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8 RATATOUILLE
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10 RUSH HOUR 3

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ERMITA

1 A LOVE STORY
2 OUIJA
3 SURF'S UP
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 RISE
7 NORBIDO

METRO EAST

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RATATOUILLE
7 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 OUIJA

ACTIVITIES

NOVALICHES

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RISE
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 OUIJA

PIONEER

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

STA. ROSA

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 SURF'S UP
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY

LIPA

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SINKING of JAPAN
4 CASA

DASMARIÑAS

1 SURF'S UP
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

INUS

1 SURF'S UP
2 A LOVE STORY
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 RUSH HOUR 3

ANGELES

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STROY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 SURF'S UP

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE SIMPSONS
3 LICENSE to WED

STARMILLS

1 CASA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 LICENSE to WED
4 A LOVE STORY
5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 SURF'S UP

BACOLOD

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP
5 BIG
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 OBS 117 / A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 CAPE KARMA
6 SURF'S UP

FOSTER. One of Kingsley's diners.

Fil-Am...

From page 11

profusely to the hotel, signed some people—five on hour!

We asked Pat if she plans to write a book where she writes. She replied "I don't think the public would be interested." As continues?

Memoir

Imagine a memoir that includes a publicist's "achievements" handling stars like Frank Sinatra and Al Pacino. Memoirs, however, demurred, believing that no one is interested to read behind-the-scenes stories.

"Like, no one really cares to read about how managers are made," she quipped. We chuckled at how charmingly she engaged to make her darlings with shots like Robin Cleon and Shown Stone sound so personal?

Old school

Pat added that she wouldn't feel right writing about the stars who paid her to do Hindi publicity. Me told her that we admired her means. Pat is obviously from the old school. She is legendary for being fiercely protective of her clients.

E-mail reinaldo_000@yahoo.com, and read his blog "The Angeles Report," or www.angelesblog.geocities.com/reinaldoreyes.html.

CRUISE. Signed autographs despite Singapore's swelteringheat.

Celebrities

From page 11

know little-known facts about our country, watch Travel Time, it's the only show that has consistently featured new and uniquely Filipino, inspiring destinations, while Doris Bolzman stays, and with consistent quality!"

And Dr. Jesus C. Lays sums it all up: "It's the only way to see the Philippines. We get insights we would never have, as place we would never on, hate lived we would never unroll—it is not for Travel Time."

What are we waiting for? Let's go with the flow and rediscover the wonders of the Philippines, in usage of Jesus Celebrities's "Travel Time!"

Trinidad, Ojeda transcended character stereotyping

By Bebot Carvajano

TWO CHARACTER ACTORS I wish admired were Bebot Trinidad and Manny Ojeda. They were always right for the roles they played.

Trinidad and Ojeda worked hard on their roles and gave them fleshed out, layered performances, so they were not just stereotypes but with truth to it. Their characters with palpable humanity rather than theatricality.

Advertising

Both Bebot and Manny were well-educated. In their heyday, they thrived in different media. Trinidad was one of the pioneers of the local radio industry, while Ojeda was recognized in the field of advertising.

The two were experienced stage actors, having worked with Red and Daisy Avellana at the Barangay Theater Guild, back in the days when theater acting was still an endeavor that people engaged in "for love and kisses."

However, being school artists, they developed problems, social standards. With calling-giving distinction, they entered a new performing arena and soon were appreciated for their sex-assisted skills, impeccable manners and artistic taste.

That they played well-heeled and elderly characters was not surprising. In fact, I always compared them to one of my favorite Hollywood character actors—E.J. Marshall.

Marshall was a dynamic actor on film, television and the legitimate stage. Most often, he portrayed principled characters whose opinions were difficult to ignore.

Bebot and Manny had Marshall's high-class traits, since both were products of the old School—class, they demonstrated the poised qualities expected of viewers and La Salle graduates before the Pacific War.

Both portrayed done rainbows difficulty, because they possessed fine manners and spoke excellent English and Spanish. Of course, they also delivered their dialogue in fine Tagalog. There was nothing fisher about their portrayals, because they were familiar with such characters from their own lives.

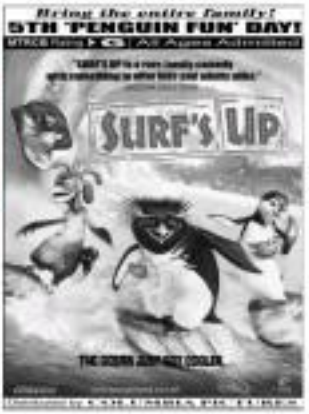
Memorable portrayals

However, like Marshall, Trinidad and Ojeda also portrayed darker characters whom they provided. If Rod Lim Bravo and Mike de Leon to desert from their nets and memorable portrayals when the right scripts came along.

Three days, when I remember neither of old movies that can either of them, I make sure I watch their scenes. They're still a joy to behold, no matter if they play characters who are despicable old men who look down on the poor. Trinidad and Ojeda always imbued their characters with humanity, thus making them interesting and credible despite their negative qualities.

In fact, some sequences of Trinidad and Ojeda's performances should be collected as visual aids for "How to Act" classes, so that today's youth can learn from them!

TRINIDAD AND OJEDA. Always right for the roles they played.



Celebrities extol the joys of 'Travel Time'

By Hector U. Torre

FOR EIGHT YEARS NOW, SUSAN Calo-Medina's visually captivating "Travel Time" TV show has regaled local armchair travelers with the beauty and richness of the country's scenic wonders. Even better, it also takes viewers off the beaten tourist track, where discoveries and adventures are every bit exciting.

In addition, the show has of late been adding a "cultural tourism" component to its formula, highlighting not just beautiful sights but also even more significant cultural insights.

Hospitable home

These days, "Travel Time" has found a new and hospitable home on the ABC channel (at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays), which somerly believes that "travel is broadening"—to all of mankind.

Hopefully, like-minded viewers will continue to support the program with their avid patronage, so it can continue to enhance the wonder- and wonder-lust of a new generation of armchair travelers.

Interestingly, a number of the show's fans don't remain merely empathetic tourists for long. The restaurateur program's lively and attractive features catered to (making them one of their confidences in the show), and they soon find themselves out in the wild, like zombies, savoring the country's historic and cultural attractions for themselves.

CALO-MEDINA: Her TV show takes viewers off the beaten tourist track.

It turned out those former couch potatoes excited trekkers — and spelunkers outside quite a number of adventures and harrowing urban adventures for "Travel Time" a favorite.

For instance, National Artist for Literature F. Sionil José became "I'm going to Laguna because I saw it on the show. It's informative. Filipinos don't know enough about their country."

Singer-comedienne Mitch Valdes chimes in: "As a performer, you go only to the major places. Even on vacation, you go to the major destinations. But, with "Travel Time," you go to the nooks and crannies—places you'd never go to! Whether the show, you feel you've already been. —And the food, the food variety!"

Author Alexis Tioseco has spoken often of the show: "It's intelligent. The program makes you feel you're really there. Basically, it's Tito Sotto who carries the show."

Leo Martinez: "Aside from the fact that I was Travel Time's first director, I like watching the show because I learn about Filipino culture. As a director-cum-actor, I feel strongly about becoming one's culture. Ang kultura ay pumasa ng isang lugalugan at kanyalugan!"

Olympia Tioco: "I enjoy watching the show because it is informative, and the way the host presents it makes me feel I'm there."

Jaqui Diliquil: "It's not your usual travel show. It teaches me a lot of things about the Philippines that I didn't know."

Little-known facts

Rilla Abad enthusiastically endorses the show: "If you want to

CELEBRITIES

NOW SHOWING

Engaging performances buoy up love triangle drama

By Rina B. Jimlo

"A Love Story"

Dir. Maryo J. delos Reyes
Dr. Movies Services, Ayo Maldoni, Angelica Panganiban

ANDY'S LIFE DEFINITELY LATELY (Sonny) tackles a different kind of love triangle: Ayanda Ilo villa, 30-year-old, happy-go-lucky businessman, Jun Montes (Ayo Maldoni); meets cowboy, 22-year-old flight attendant, Cheryl (Angelica Panganiban). But, the centerpiece of romantic love soon weaves for Cheryl — Jun and Andrew.

The couple's lives get even more complicated when charismatic Joanne Villanueva (Marisol Soriano), who is herself recuperating from a devastating heartbreak, enters the picture...and dashes up the romantic lines. Then, the dreamboat, confounding, bad-finding and hopes-pointing begin...

John Reyes employs an intriguingly mundane storytelling style that could have particular resonance to today's youth — on fashion and inconsequentiae.

But, that is one of the film's novel contextual gimmicks that set it apart from other domestic boudoirs. Unfortunately, Reyes-Reyes is unable to fully realize the potential of her plenty film's unpretentious style.

Technically, the director crafts a technically polished domestic fantasy that makes full use of its cast's thespic strengths. The gym-toned Ayo, who has never looked so fit, endeavors the soul of his character and unleashes his full dramatic chops. Equally impressive is Angelica Panganiban, in demonstrates that he is a leading man of great promise.

Marisol (also making her movie debut) has a natural screen presence and her ability to convey her self-assurance and humanness. Her character is a delight to watch.

Sonny Parsons, Ayo Maldoni, Angelica Panganiban, Marisol Soriano

KORIANO, PAGKILOS AND PANGANIBAN: Unlikely sex-pals-in-a-dramatic bed.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Celebs extol joys of 'Travel Time'/F4

SATURDAY Special

Tito Pete's excellent wife's many challenges with love and great resolve.

Pete Roa's giving, sharing spirit lives on

By Nestor G. Torre

MY PETE ROA CONNECTION BEGAN when another much-missed friend, Elvira Manahan, asked me to direct his new TV show, "Two for the Road," on ABS-CBN. Pete was the program's executive producer, so was become co-workers, and later friends.

Unique combination

Since Elvira liked having "her boys" close to her, Pete and I quickly became part of "the gang," mostly made up of entertaining wonders like George Siow, Hobe Cervantes, Lee Riady and Edmund Sacro, who were dazzled by the glorious Dr. Manahan's unique combination of beauty, gift of gab—and utter unpredictability.

Next, ABS-CBN boss Gozo Lopez was impressed with my articles on TV reforms in the Chronicle, which his family also owned, and asked me to address his channel's concessions, and it was Pete who helped organize that meeting.

After that, Pete asked me to direct another talk show, to be hosted by another socialite. Trouble was, she was still recovering from a serious accident, and was in no condition to do the show under her own steam.

So, we had to resolutely script, rehearse and rehearse—sometimes the show several hours, so she wouldn't look and sound good on TV. It was a major challenge, but with Pete's help and the ever gracious socialite's humorous comic premises, we pulled it off.

At this point, I considered Pete a friend, but we weren't close. Our friendship deepened when I directed him and his wife Beats in the challenging two-actor comedy, "The Owl and the Pussycat."

It was a demanding production, not just because Pete and Beats had to hold concert stage effortlessly for two-and-a-half whole hours, but also because it was Beats' first time to act against her "normal" screen image—and play a loud and vulgar prostitute!

Comic touch

It helped a lot that she was ultimately unnerving at and enforcing her own beautiful, so Beats took her lurch into the "Mercurey" role with great relish. And they, with his light comic touch, was always there to keep her on track whenever her routine faltered.

Well, the production was a resounding success, and Beats felt she had proven something important to her audience—that her and Pete's children hadn't been conceived via Immaculate Conception!

Even later, we directed the pioneering magazine show, "Sun Singco," on Channel 9, and we got Pete to co-host the show, along with Boomerang Gil and the late, great Gigi Lozano and Boy Vera. Oh, how well they clicked as co-hosts! As a result, the show became the channel's top viewer, and subsequent magazine programs "emulated" some of its features.

Since we rehearsed "Owl" at the Roa' house, we got to know their children well, and we host close to his family too, "foster kids," after Pete had been painfully paralyzed by a stroke, we visited the Roa' home again with Edmund Sacro and our beat buddy Pete and Boots worked on the physical therapy, which left them both exhausted—and our admiration for them increased.

Clearly, they were a team that would weather life's many challenges with love and great resolve, but I never dreamed that Pete would be so ill-fated with brain tumor. Pete went from one medical crisis to another, then about 6 months ruly down through, losing over your second down.

Genuine desire

Pete has gone on to his just reward, but we hold him close to our hearts because of his unique kindness. I'm ending this recollection with two anecdotes to illustrate his genuine desire to help others.

The first is about his concern for young souls. I was asked by the then Film Development Foundation (now Council of the Philippines) to conduct a screenwriting course in Cebu City, and Pete cared about media education so much that he flew down with me to help examine the city's schools and media companies to support the foundation's educational endeavor.

With Pete's help, the four-month course produced some good screenwriters—one of whom even went on to attend a national screenwriting competition, competing with many budding writers.

My second anecdote is about just-spoon Annie Revill. One fine night, Pete asked me to "go shmoozing" with him, and we ended up in a cheap dive where the only entertainment was being provided by a lady singer, accompanied only by a guitar player.

Glory days

It turned out that the singer was none Revill, whose days had climaxed since her glory days decades ago. Her voice was, drenched by her unpaid-for labor, which was so great we were—only her public had forgotten her.

Pete and I then embarked on a campaign to write articles to remind everyone that we had a brilliant musical talent languishing unrecognized in our theaters midst.

Well, our little campaign worked. The next time Pete and I checked, Annie was already drawing crowds to close and hotel, and we felt psychically fulfilled, because a great talent had once more gotten the recognition she most richly deserved.

The point is that, without Pete, it's likely that many of that would have happened. And that's only the icing on the already yummy cake of Pete Roa's lifelong and instinctive penchant for helping others with absolutely no fanfare—and without expecting anything in return.

Pete may no longer be with us on this mortal plane, but the inspiring example of his good deeds lives on!

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPAY — BY JOSS ASEREN

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAT. JUNIOR

RUFFTS — BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEHOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHOMKO

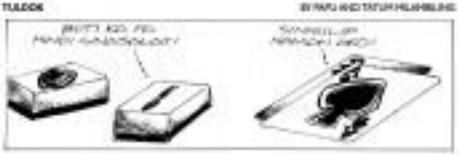
ATOMIC AND WEEDY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PAMILIRAN

MIND MACHINE — BY TRAVIS ASEREN

HUGKOKOSMOS — BY JONILE TEJOO

TULDOK — BY PAPU AND TATUM MILANBILANG



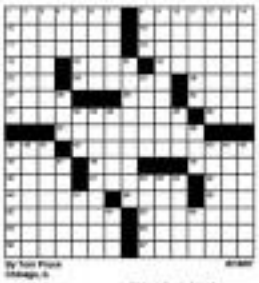
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Wreckroom cookery
6 Bottom
10 Legality
13 Product name
14 Wrestling vacuum
15 Hoodwinked
16 Today's murdered gigolo
17 Make an attempt
18 "Holy ___!"
19 Wee chicks
21 Ice cream buy
23 Take an oral without proof
24 Pentagram
27 Tortoni city
29 ___ Aurora, Ills.
32 Goddess Ceres' name, by income
37 It's a cold fight
38 Ancient Assyrian capital
41 Saint Bernard's patron
42 Office of a town official
43 Interview today
45 Movie supplier
47 Hindu divisions
48 Dead ringers
49 Mrs. Ferdinand Marcos
50 Pet monkey
51 Mining reputation
52 Heart of island
53 Sea eagle's habitat on land
54 Hospital
55 Landing
56 Cambridge contemporary
57 Lady with issues
58 Profession of sin

DOWN
1 French bud
2 Work part
3 Cure for a sonata
4 April 15 org.
5 One of the clergy
6 Pancake of note
7 Snowman's imprint
8 Beard of oysters
9 Parliament's outfit
10 Monstrous baboon
11 Crown the bowler
12 Libra, at times
13 Amanullah Imperial Khan
14 Mischief bent to bear
21 Mud mixture
22 Gem of Hollywood
25 Chittagong cosmetologist
26 Lobman's casualty
27 Arrogant's stand
28 Bank of Athens
31 Actress Hurley
33 Japanese title of respect
34 Sales and tickets
40 Plank walkway, shaped flowers
44 Cat hairs into single file
46 Bridal
48 Thieves oppose
49 Mind blowing
51 Join with a molten alloy
52 Gamecocks
53 Close the date
54 Karate
57 Ad boldly
59 Newspaper heardes
60 ___-Vegas

By Tom Pryce
Chicago, IL



Friday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

TAURUS TODAY: You're wise and emotionally deep. If you want to be, you're a natural leader. You're a great addictive and responsive to others. You respond to passionate people. You're sensitive and understanding and dedicated that life is never easy. You can be too loving, too sympathetic, you're quite a serious realist. You can always begin by one of the best creative people.

Birthdays of: Robert Redford, actor; Rosemary Clooney, singer; Bob Hope, comedian; Madeleine Albright, politician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be realistic, but don't be a pessimist. Your sense of direction and energy makes you a natural leader. And don't be a fanatic about it—you have creative talents. You're better than you think. Work on your confidence.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Relationships with other people are important to you. Friends and lovers are quite serious, but unattractive today. You're also a bit moody and touchy. Don't take things too personally.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): It's easy to get into unrealistic moods today. Don't let your imagination run away with you. Be practical and down to earth. Don't make decisions on personal issues.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might have a tendency to worry about your financial situation today. However, you're thinking more clearly and practical than for most lovers. Good!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day to get out and meet people or begin something that inspires you. Your communication skills are very serious about performing something new.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today is an excellent day for romance and something. You touch that the easiest you're waiting. You have wonderful powers of concentration today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a great love for one today. Remember, you might be the most romantic person in it's a downstream of mind today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're quiet with domestic pursuits and love your home. Put in your time a little. But the one home what you're doing, you'll pick about it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Good plans and anything considered work and talking. Be really cautious and that the success of a really big deal is at risk. You could very focused.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Social events can go well today. You're serious about long-range goals. You're also very artistic and expert, personalities. Trust your judgment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Resist the urge to be critical of others' personal habits. Be more tolerant and understanding today. You have high ambitions for yourself, and you want to succeed. Don't be afraid to work for it. You might also be creative.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have an appreciation for excellent today. You're a romantic and you're quite sure that you're personal and attractive in detail. You're generally willing to work hard, but there are times you can make the job.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

5								1
		6				3		
	3		2		5		9	
		4		2		6		
			6		3			
		8		4		1		
	2		1		9		4	
		9				7		
7								5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	8	1	2	3	9	7	5	6
9	6	3	5	5	7	2	4	1
7	2	5	4	1	8	9	6	3
3	9	6	8	5	2	1	7	4
1	4	8	9	7	6	3	2	5
2	5	7	3	4	1	8	9	6
6	1	9	7	8	5	4	3	2
8	3	2	6	9	4	5	1	7
5	7	4	1	2	3	6	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

PBO screens 'Kaleldo'

CELEBRATE PBOO BOXOFFICE'S FOURTH year with a bundle of viewing treats this month.

Last Aug. 30 on PBO Premiere, the Wes Bit Baker-led sci-fi thriller "Kaleldo" (formerly known as "Kaleldo: The Real Story") premieres on Aug. 24 at 9:30 p.m.

Brilliante Mendoza's "Kinatay" (starring Coco Martin, Julio Diaz, Maria Isabel Lopez and Mercedes Cabral) will be shown on Aug. 25 at 9:30 p.m.

Also on Aug. 25 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ligaw na Bulaklak" (starring Eula Valdez, Jericho Rosales, Ara Mina and Dennis Trillo).

Aug. 26 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Aug. 27 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Aug. 28 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Aug. 29 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Aug. 30 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Aug. 31 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 1 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 2 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 3 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 4 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Sept. 5 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 6 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 7 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 8 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 9 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Sept. 10 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 11 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 12 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 13 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 14 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Sept. 15 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 16 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 17 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Sept. 18 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Sept. 19 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

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Mar. 9 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Mar. 10 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Mar. 11 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Mar. 12 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Mar. 13 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Mar. 14 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Mar. 15 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Mar. 16 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Mar. 17 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Mar. 18 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (starring Diether Ocampo, Jodi Sta. Maria, Ina Feleo and Ricky Davao).

Mar. 19 at 9:30 p.m. is "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" (starring Ai-Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Jaime Fabregas and Ronaldo Valdez).

Mar. 20 at 9:30 p.m. is "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" (starring Eugene Domingo, Marvin Agustin, Ricky Davao and Ronaldo Valdez).

Mar. 21 at 9:30 p.m. is "Tuhog" (starring Ara Mina, Dennis Trillo, Jaclyn Jose and Ricky Davao).

Mar. 22 at 9:30 p.m. is "Magkakabalikat" (starring Ronaldo Valdez, Ricky Davao, Dennis Trillo and Jericho Rosales).

Mar. 23 at 9:30

Tours, Leisure & Chow

Where to Stop Where to GO

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Go fresh and healthy with Sulo's Japanese Salad Bar

GIVING YOU MORE REASONS to have tummy filling tete-gabi-tete dinner runs, The Galleria food area offers salad omission halt for style available at the Sushi Bar for the whole month of August.

Some of the favored dishes are Bacon Tru Asparagus, Kamba Salad and Exposed Maki. Bacon Tru Asparagus is a rendition of the favorite asparagus slices wrapped with bacon, while Kamba Salad is a version of the creamy mixture of shredded cucumber and crabsticks. Also try the Exposed Maki with Genmai-cha Sauce, which is a roll of fresh romaine lettuce, spinach, asparagus and cucumis that is best dipped with tasty mixture of ground sesame seeds and special spices.

More varieties are in store for only P198++ per head. Served during dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Garde Bar. For inquiries and reservations, please contact 924-5951 or visit the website at www.solo-food.com.ph. The Solo food is located at Mandaluyong Road, Dilimán, Quezon City.

SULO sizzler

Traditional tastes for the modern palates

FROM THE MODERN CITYSCAPE OF Manila springs forth a sanctuary that defies time and change. This dining sanctuary is known for serving rich traditional oriental cuisine in a contemporary zone and it is called Penny Garden.

Tradition and modernity blend in perfect harmony at the Penny Garden for this dining oasis presents the long heritage of Cantonese cooking in a modern fashion hence, offering its guests gastronomic experience singularly like no other.

Original Cantonese dishes flavored with a hint of Malaysian tang – a distinct combination of flavors that is once again exceptionally Penny Garden. And at the helm of this distinguishing creation is Chinese-Malaysian chef Lee Yang Peng who presumably proved the mettle and save to the originality of the dishes prepared. According to chef Lee, freshness and all natural ingredients are the two essential elements of his recipes. And true to this practice, Penny Garden displays by its entrance a large aquarium of different kinds of live seafood- like dotted, king, tapa-tapa, mantong, panther crabs, lobster and eels. From this tank, customers can request their choice of seafood for immediate preparation.

And for exclusive celebrations, Penny Garden has private rooms that can accommodate guests in a single large group. Sunflowers, Lotus and Pearls. Sunflower is the biggest, with a seating capacity of 16 persons, followed by Lotus with 12 and Pearls with 10. But with the Sunflower and Pearl rooms being adjacent to each other, they may be adjoined to make way for bigger groups.

The Penny Garden is open daily during lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and dinner from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. For inquiries, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212/extension 2393.

Manila Pavilion Hotel is a part of Manila-based Philippines Inc, the largest Filipino hotel chain in the country. It is located at United Nations Avenue corner Maria Orosa Street, Manila.

'Pink Icon' jeepney created in luxury

ANOTHER FIRST FROM THE TRAILBLAZING innovator and Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa's chair, Manny Gonzalez, the "Pink Icon", which will serve as the airport shuttle for the 5-star Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa, will surely add excitement to the Hilton Cebu experience.

When the Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa opened, Manny didn't like the idea of just having another shuttle bus for the resort, he wanted to offer something different and exciting – a talking point.

"What is better than taking the jeepney – a Philippine icon and make it a luxurious product and to make it look expensive too." He then started brainstorming his ideas and vision to find, Hilton Cebu Resort and Spa to become graphic artist and ML, project architect who knows and understands the world Manny's design concept and direction. Using art nouveau strokes as the overall design for the body of the vehicle, in different tone of flamingo pink and glitzy chrome as the color scheme, while taking some of the design elements from old vintage cars i.e. the Rolls Royce and Bentley – the pronounced and rounded fenders, pop-out headlights, round hub caps and tall vertical front grille and the rear-ended logo.

"After the concept and design, I didn't realize that the biggest challenge was to find someone to build it. I first approached the 2 big jeepney builders, but they were not prepared for the challenge of my high expectations. It took me months to finally find a small jeepney builder in Valenzuela who was willing to build it, while I didn't hesitate to tell them that it won't be easy to satisfy the level of quality that I will be expecting, but, Obet, the owner of the master who is the craftsmanship foreman of the shop decided to take the challenge.

"I must have personally inspected it almost 20 times during the making, a true-to-scale AS and Bird. It was very difficult for all of us, the fender was changed 4 times. The bolt-caps 3 times and the seats several times. Even the paint was redone several times too. I had to send the best upholsterer from Cebu to do the seats and the interiors, the audio system was also replaced twice."

"My ultimate challenge, would be to sell the idea to Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas to use this "Pink Icon" as their airport shuttle. Until selling, what that happens our Philippine icon will be on the roads of a city with the most prestigious resorts in the world."

All the details of this "Pink Icon" are now being copyrighted.

The "Pink Icon" starts its luxurious drive in Manila this month for showcase, and then it will go home to Cebu, where the ride will carry on.

Ascott international holds a blood drive in Manila

ASCOTT INTERNATIONAL IN ITS continuous efforts to provide service within and beyond the walls of its four properties in Makati City held a blood drive in partnership with the Philippine National Red Cross. Management and employees of Ascott Makati, Somerset Millennium Makati, Somerset Olympia Makati and Somerset Salcedo Makati volunteered and donated blood as one of its community social responsibility initiatives this year. The blood donation drive was conducted in latest property addition, Ascott Makati (refurnished in March 2007).

The Ascott Group is the largest international serviced residence owner-operator outside the United States with over 20,000 serviced residence units in key cities of Asia Pacific, Europe and the Gulf region. This includes over 5,500 units which are under development.

The Group operates and owns brands – Ascott, Somerset and Citadines. Its portfolio spans over 50 cities in 22 countries, 11 of which are new cities where Ascott's serviced residences are being developed. Ascott's properties can be found in cities including London, Paris, Brussels, Berlin and Barcelona in Europe; Singapore, Bangkok, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur, Tokyo, Seoul, Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong in Asia; Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland in Australia / New Zealand, as well as Dubai in the Gulf region. For more information, log on to www.the-ascott.com.